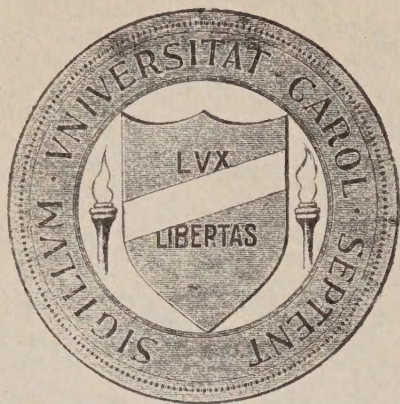


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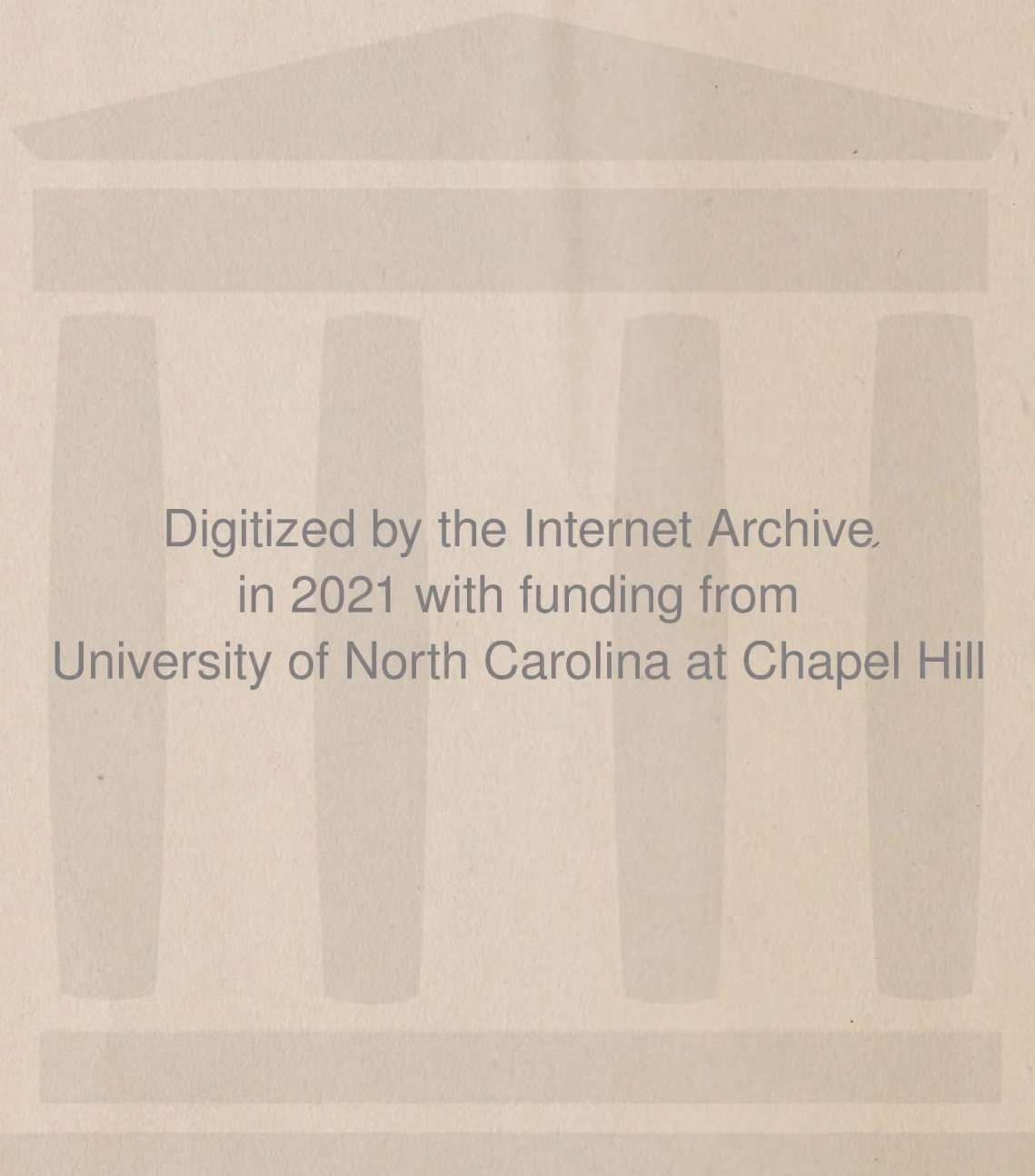
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Social Service Quarterly

ISSUED BY THE
NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE FOR SOCIAL SERVICE

Vol. V.

RALEIGH, N. C., JANUARY-MARCH, 1917

No. 1

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT FIFTH ANNUAL
SESSION, NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
FOR SOCIAL SERVICE, RALEIGH
JANUARY 21-24, 1917

1. Endorsing bills providing for a State Board of Charities and Public Welfare.
2. Commending Governor Bickett for his profound interest in our country civilization.
3. Endorsing the bill establishing a State Home and Training School for girls and fallen women.
4. Endorsing Bone Dry Legislation.
5. Advocating the appointment of a Sanity Commission to pass upon the sanity of accused persons in the courts.
6. Advocating the raising of the age of consent from 14 to 18 years.
7. Reaffirming our belief in certain legislative measures advocated at previous Conferences. See page 149.
8. Inviting all Social Service agencies in the State to join us in presenting to the Legislature of 1919 a sane, scientifically based eugenic marriage law for North Carolina.
9. Thanking Raleigh for her courtesies, kindness and hospitality.

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 DR. HOWARD E. RONDTHALER,
 MR. A. W. MCALISTER.

The President and Vice-Presidents are *ex officio* Members

Social Service Quarterly

ISSUED BY THE

North Carolina Conference for Social Service

Entered as second-class matter August 9, 1913, at the Postoffice at Raleigh, N. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879

Vol. V

RALEIGH, N. C., JANUARY-MARCH, 1917

No. 1

EDITORIAL

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held immediately following the Raleigh meeting of the Conference Mrs. T. W. Lingle, Davidson, N. C., was selected as Secretary-Treasurer of the Conference. All members, exchanges and correspondents will take notice of this change, and address all matters to her. The issuance of this number of the *Quarterly* is the last official act of the retiring Secretary-Treasurer.

Attention is called to the Conference Directory on the inside cover page of this number of the *Quarterly*. It will be seen there that the last meeting of the Conference changed several officers. The *Quarterly* bespeaks for them the support of all interested in bettering social conditions in North Carolina.

This issue of the *Quarterly* is given over to the publication of some of the papers presented at the last Conference. Many others are still to be published.

Many of those who were accorded a place on our program have failed to

grant the request of the Conference and furnish their papers for publication.

Some of the very cream of the Conference, such as the great addresses of Dr. Alexander Johnson, Miss Kate Barnard, Mr. Edward A. Fitzpatrick and others, was not written and we were unable to get even a promise to reduce these great addresses to writing for us. The Conference loses much by our failure to demand written papers.

The friends of Social Service throughout the State are greatly pleased at the establishment, by the recent Legislature, of a Board of Charities and Public Welfare projected along the broad lines we have advocated. A better day is ahead for any State in which the social and moral health of her citizens is looked after in a scientific, sensible, humane, businesslike manner. No small amount of the success of this part of our work is due to the untiring, tactful and heroic efforts of Mr. A. W. McAlister, of Greensboro.

RESOLUTIONS

The North Carolina Conference for Social Service wishes to reaffirm its faith in the important legislative measures endorsed by this Conference at previous sessions as follows:

1. For a State Board of Charities and Public Welfare.

2. Favoring one or more State institutions "for the rescue and correction of wayward girls and fallen women."

3. Endorsing the uniform child-labor law, the 14-year age limit, with adequate inspection.

4. Endorsing the indeterminate sentence, parole system, and giving prisoner's earnings to his family.

5. Favoring State-wide adoption of the Guilford County Public Morals Law for suppressing blind tigers and making property owners responsible who rent houses for immoral purposes.

6. Urging the Legislature to appoint House and Senate committees on social welfare.

7. Favoring a law to make cohabitation of the races a crime.

8. Commending the work of the Library Commission and urging a larger appropriation for it.

9. Favoring a State-wide-campaign for moonlight schools to teach adult illiterates to read and write, with adequate appropriation.

10. Urging the General Assembly to provide liberally for the enlargement of the activities of the State Board of Health, especially for increasing the capacity and equipment

of the State Sanatorium, and for a State-wide campaign against tuberculosis; also, to include in the work of the Board the inspection of jails and convict camps.

11. Legislation and adequate support for institutions designed to prevent the perpetuation of feeble-mindedness in our population.

12. Favoring increasing the age limit.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Conference be expressed by a rising vote to Miss Kate Barnard, Mr. Edward A. Fitzpatrick, Dr. Alexander Johnson, and Mrs. K. W. Barrett, the distinguished speakers from out of the State, for their interest and coöperation and for their able and helpful addresses.

Resolved, That this Conference reaffirm the following resolutions adopted at the last session of the Conference:

1. Favoring more thoroughgoing study of the causes of poverty and its prevention, instead of depending upon charity to relieve conditions after they have become fixed.

2. Favoring censorship of moving picture shows.

3. Advocating a State-wide survey of social and economic conditions of women and girls.

4. For making all public schools community centers—centers of recreation and social life. Also approving farm-life schools.

5. Urging the formation of "Community Leagues" under the direction of the State Bureau of Community Service.

6. For the enactment and enforcement of a uniform child-labor law.

7. For legislation looking to the prevention of feeble-mindedness and insanity.

8. Favoring increased capacity for the Jackson Training School.

9. Favoring closer coöperation with the State Sunday School Association and other organizations for moral progress.

Resolved, That this Conference hereby invites all Social Service agencies in the State to unite with it in the investigation of the subject of a eugenic marriage law, with a view to presenting to the General Assembly of 1919 a sane, scientifically based eugenic marriage law for North Carolina, believing that such a law will tend to prevent many of the social ills for whose correction this Conference is striving.

Resolved, That the thanks and appreciation of the Conference be tendered to the First Baptist Church, of Raleigh, for its hospitality; to the Chamber of Commerce, of Raleigh, for its coöperation; to the Woman's Club, of Raleigh, for its courtesy; and to Mr. Warren H. Booker, as chairman of the local Committee of Arrangements, for his efficiency and fidelity.

Resolved, That the Conference express to Dr. E. K. Graham by a rising vote its appreciation of the splendid program which he prepared for this

Conference, and for the successful way in which it has been carried out.

WHEREAS, The members of the North Carolina Conference for Social Service have heard with a thrill of appreciation of the address delivered in our National Capital yesterday by the President of the United States, a veritable trumpet call to the conscience and Christianity of our American Nation; and

WHEREAS, It is our conviction that the President's proposal that the United States should join in an international agreement to insure the peace of the world is in line with, and not out of harmony with, the finest traditions of American history; that it comes not to destroy, but to fulfil, the noble injunctions of Washington and the fathers of our Republic. We should not, indeed, enter into any entangling alliances that would involve us in close affiliation with one group of nations, and in bitter and dangerous hostility with another group; but we should stand ready to join with all the great governments to safeguard humanity against the horrors and savagery of war.

Therefore, be it

Resolved, That The North Carolina Conference for Social Service feels that America would be untrue to the stern call of duty if it neglected to seize the great opportunity of freeing the nations of the earth from the scourge of war, and we call upon the members of the United States Senate to hold up the hands of our President in the noble and history-making endeavor he has undertaken.

Resolved second, That a copy of this resolution be sent to-day to Presi-

dent Wilson and to the Senators from North Carolina; and copies sent within the next few days to each member of the United States Senate.

WHEREAS, The North Carolina Conference for Social Service has heard with great delight the address of Dr. Howard E. Rondthaler describing the methods by which Salem community has stimulated interest in music, giving to its entire population not only an appreciation of the best music, but ability to assist in producing the finest community music.

Therefore, be it

Resolved, That we ask Doctor Rondthaler to prepare his paper for publication in the *Social Service Quarterly*, and we ask members of this Conference to consider whether it is not possible to develop in their own communities a like appreciation of one of the most beautiful and ennobling agencies that can come into human life.

The North Carolina Conference for Social Service desires to record its gratification in Governor Bickett's profound interest in our country civilization, his realization of its fundamental importance, and his single-minded purpose to give it a proper place in constructive legislation.

And to this end your committee proposes a resolution of approval and support of his purposes and plans to make our country life efficient and prosperous, satisfying and wholesome; to increase the number of our home-owning farmers, the builders and bulwark of our commonwealth; to lessen the number of landless,

homeless people in North Carolina; to mitigate the evils of the crop-lien and to enrich the social and recreational features of country life.

This Conference hereby gives its unqualified endorsement to the bills to be presented to the Legislature, prefaced by the Anti-Saloon League for the prohibition of the liquor traffic in the State of North Carolina.

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

Resolved, That the bill drawn to establish "a State Home and Training School for Girls and Women" and prepared under the direction of five, appointed by this Conference, be approved and commended to the favorable attention of the Assembly.

Resolved, That the Secretary of this Conference forward before the end of the present week to each member of the General Assembly a copy of all resolutions relating to State Legislation, urging our law makers to give these measures their earnest consideration.

Resolved, That this Conference give its heartiest endorsement to the bills providing for the establishment of a State Board of Charities and Public Welfare now pending before the General Assembly, for the following reasons:

1. It is fundamental and necessary to our social progress.
2. It will supply a more accurate and a more complete knowledge of social conditions.
3. By the proper care and placing of dependent and delinquent children,

and in other ways, it will tend to the reduction of poverty and crime.

4. With the county as the unit, it will coördinate the governmental social forces, and develop the social conscience of the State and contribute to the social health, just as the Department of Health has contributed to the physical health of the public.

5. By the introduction of efficient method and by service rendered to society, it will save to the State far more than what it will cost, and is, therefore, economy and a sound business proposition.

Resolved, That we recommend that the Governor be authorized to appoint a Board to be known as the Sanity Commission, composed of the Superintendent of the Caswell Training School, the Superintendents of the three State Hospitals for the Insane, the Superintendent of Prisons, the Superintendent of the Jackson Training School, the Professor of Psychology at the University of North Carolina, the President of the State Board of Medical Examiners, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Attorney General, one min-

ister and one lady, preferably a physician. This board, when requested by the Governor or by any one acting on behalf of an accused person, shall meet and examine and pass upon the question of the mental responsibility of the accused, and his capacity to answer for the crime committed. It shall be the duty of such commission to report its findings of facts and conclusions to the Governor or the Court for their consideration.

Resolved, That we endorse the bill presented to the North Carolina Legislature raising the age of consent from 14 years to 16 years, and that we further recommend that the age of consent be raised to 18 years, and

Resolved, That we recommend that a fine of not less than \$350 be levied on the father of an illegitimate child and paid to the mother of such child, and

Resolved, That further punishment, including a penitentiary sentence, to be specified in this law, be left to the discretion of the Court, with such recommendations to the Court as the Legislature may deem best to specify.

The Country Merchant and the Country Community

J. W. Rallings, Indian Trail

This occasion affords me great pleasure, not because of the responsibility of this hour, but for the opportunity to gather vision and inspiration for the great work of assist-

ing in the rebuilding of rural life in North Carolina.

It is not my nature to indulge in personal references, but in assigning this subject our chairman requested

me to relate pointed illustrations from my experience and observation showing the relation of the country merchant to rural community life.

The country merchant occupies a strategic position in the development or destruction of community life. He is the teacher for those who do not read, attend church, or other neighborhood gatherings. It is his duty to imbue them with a thirst for constructive information by distributing bulletins and other helpful literature, or he can pass out the free advertising of quacks who flood the country with cure-all pamphlets.

The country merchant can become the leader in all progressive and constructive movements, or he can align with the reactionary and destructive forces of the community.

Give you an example. Not more than 30 years ago when the railroad came through one of the oldest Scotch settlements in southern North Carolina, where the people were self-supporting and happy, the crop-lien in the hands of the country merchant began its work of destruction and continued until that noble, sturdy race fell victim to the system, and the homes of the once proud and patriotic white man was filled with incompetent sons of Ham. Nor did it stop there, for, at this very moment, thousands of acres of that once rich soil in Piedmont North Carolina lies a gullied waste.

This is to me a sad picture. Methinks I see the misguided merchant at the close of a wasted life, looking back with pathetic vision over the destruction he has wrought, and I hear him exclaim "Vanity, vanity all is vanity."

Goldsmith best voiced this sentiment when he said:

"A time there was ere England's grief's
began,
When every rood of ground maintained its
man;
For him light labor spread her whole-
some store,
Just gave what life required, but gave
no more;
His best companions, innocence and health,
And his best riches; ignorance of wealth.
But times are altered, trade's unfeeling
train
Usurps the land, and disposses the
swain."

Not only so, for the crop-lien is not only "the bole weevil of North Carolina", destroying our material wealth; but it is the agent of a system which is converting the strongest race of patriotic pioneers into the most helpless and pitiable class of slaves the world has seen. You are familiar with the utter dependence of a victim of this system upon his master; how he must come and humble himself and pray to his lord, "Give us this day our daily bread."

This condition is illustrated by an actual occurrence. It happened this way: One dry July day, when the credit man for a crop-lien supply store was feeling rather grouchy, a sad-faced supplicant entered quietly and stealthily drew up to the office. His presence in the store attracted no attention from the clerks, nor did the boss recognize his patron. The hungry man stood long without attention. He had so often been brow-beaten by the professional credit man that he had neither the self-respect nor courage to demand a courteous and speedy hearing. Long he waited unnoticed, while the store

force read the daily news, till at length in final desperation he said to the boss: "I need some meal so bad till I am out of meat."

This shows how the poor farmers are crushed by that form of credit, how the light of hope is shut out by a contract that binds them to the cruel system. It also shows how the credit man becomes despotic, absolute and dictatorial, how he lords over his patrons and how the feeling of service never appeals to him.

My experience with the credit business caused me to evolve a simplified method of handling farm credits, as follows: A man arranges for \$100.00

in credit and he is issued that amount in trade checks which are good for trade or on account. He is charged the regular rate of discount established by banks on such paper. In this way the customer at once becomes the friend of the store, because he knows the merchant has done him a service in getting him credit at the established discount, and he knows he is buying at spot cash prices. However, this is not entirely satisfactory, as this form of credit does not free the borrower from the store. The final solution of this problem is found in the Credit Union, which is destined to replace the time merchant.

A Visitor's Estimate of the Recent Conference

The following, from the pen of Mr. Archibald Johnson, in a recent number of *Charity and Children*, gives a fine estimate of our recent Conference in Raleigh as seen by a visitor:

"For a variegated, albeit a very practical, program commend us to the Social Service Conference. The elements composing the Conference are more representative of North Carolina, we dare say, than is true of any other meeting in the State. All denominations are represented, the Episcopalians taking a leading part. Each of the political parties is in evidence. College presidents and hard-headed business men appear on the platform, and women of a high order of intelligence take prominent part in the discussions. It is a mix-

ture of the very best and most forward-looking folks in our State without regard to social, financial or any other consideration. But they are all fired with a spirit of progress consecrated to the uplift and betterment of all people. The Conference held its sessions in the Sunday school room of the First Baptist Church which has become the forum of Raleigh. It is conveniently located, for one thing, and is comfortable and not too big to hold a good-size audience such as usually meets on occasions like the Conference, the Anti-saloon League and other civic and religious assemblies. Politics, however, is barred. The brethren who meet to discuss political conditions must find another hall. We would not say that the Conference which

closed its session on Wednesday of last week was the best ever held, but it was certainly one of the most helpful. The program covered a wide range of subjects touching the social life of our people. The first session of the Conference was devoted to the Orphanage work and was presided over by General Manager Kesler of the Thomasville Orphanage. One of the most delightful of the many topics discussed was the country church problem, and Rev. W. S. Olive, of Olive's Chapel Church, was on hand to tell us what a country church with preaching every Sunday is doing for the moral, as well as the financial, progress of the community. Mr. Olive, in a free and easy way, told his story which was of surpassing interest to the members. The financial side of the Conference was perhaps the most profitable of all the sessions. Mr. John Sprunt Hill, of Durham, explained "The North Carolina Credit Unions," an Old World idea in New World soil, which was not only new to the most of us, but particularly fascinating. The Morris bank system was also explained by Mr. Fred Hull, of Asheville, and opened the eyes of the people to a system of banking based on character, rather than capital, and which is succeeding in marvelous fashion. Eight of these banks have been established in North Carolina, and Morris, who originated the system, is a native of Tarboro, N. C. The iniquity of the alien law was assailed by Governor Bickett and others very vigorously, and the evil of this system of destruction of both merchant and farmer was clearly revealed. The remarkable thing about

these discussions on finance was that they were all in the interest of the poor man, who through all the years has been allowed to shift for himself; and the Legislature, if the members were present, received a great deal of light that ought to help them in the solution of some of the problems that are facing them. The defective children of the State received a great deal of intelligent attention. Dr. Alexander Johnson, of Philadelphia, delivered two or three addresses of remarkable power on the subject. His speech on "Waste" was especially strong and helpful. Mr. A. W. McAlister, of Greensboro, spoke with tremendous power in favor of the bill for the establishment of a board of public welfare that has been introduced in the Legislature. Mr. McAlister's soul is aflame on the subject, and the arguments he presented in favor of the bill cannot be answered. Dr. A. A. McGeachy, of Charlotte, was to have spoken on Tuesday evening on the need of a home for fallen women and girls, but this part of the program was cut out to give the members a chance to attend the Paderewski concert. This was an egregious blunder, as the work arranged for that evening was of more importance than 40 Paderewskis. However, Dr. McGeachy preached a sermon of great power on the subject on Sunday morning preceding the opening of the Conference. The Conference very heartily endorsed the bills for more stringent prohibition laws proposed by the Anti-saloon League. We are writing wholly from memory and without a program before us. Many subjects of great importance have not been

mentioned. The sessions were full of interest, and if there was any fault with the program it was, that it was too rich and full. Not quite enough time was given for free discussion of the subjects by the members of the body. The leaders of the discussions were plied with questions, but time forbade free and full discussions of

the matters so ably opened up by these experts. Next time we hope there will be fewer subjects and fuller spontaneous discussions. But it was a feast of reason and a flow of soul, and Doctor Graham deserves the thanks of the public for his excellent arrangement of the program."

The Cry of the Children

Miss Gertrude Weil, Goldsboro

Our Chairman has kindly allowed me a little time on this morning's program to tell you a story. It is a true story. It isn't altogether a cheerfully story, and yet it has its hopeful side. And because it is a true story and because it has a hopeful side—because it gives us inspiration to do and help as well as to lament—I want to tell it.

The Chases had five children, four daughters and a son. Mr. Chase was ineffectual—a weakling. Mrs. Chase was immoral. She made sale of the two oldest daughters. Before the others came of marketable age she died. Some time after her death, the third daughter, Hattie, about 16 years old, gave birth to an illegitimate child. The two oldest girls have become professional prostitutes. In spite of a sympathetic and intelligent attempt to interest Hattie and to get her into a Crittenden Home, she fell into evil company, and is following the example of her older sisters. The fourth sister, Janie, about 12 or 13 years old, grew up in her father's cottage, knowing no train-

ing or restraint, coming and going as she pleased, spending much of her time on the street, bright and attractive and friendly, but inclining more and more toward waywardness. Through the interest and efforts of the local Charity Organization Society she was given to the Children's Home Society, under whose care and training she has been for nine months, developing into a tractable, responsible, ambitious girl, with ideals of living and work far removed from the ideals and example of her former home.

Perhaps *you* know a family of Chases at home. Or, perhaps your Chases are in two families; the older girls in one, the younger in another. In whatever combination they may happen to be grouped, they are there. There are many of them all about us. And those little Chases—those children, before whom there stretches out a future of pain and vice and crime—are crying out to us. It is a silent cry, unaccompanied by the traditional whir of factory wheel, without picturesque setting, unob-

trusive in the busy whirl of the day's routine, most often without the compelling accompaniment of visible suffering and need; but it is an urgent cry and from the vital needs of human life. It is a cry for a chance for a normal home, a chance for healthful moral environment, for loving and watchful care, for training for useful and helpful occupation. Not an exorbitant demand, simply a plea for the child's rightful heritage.

It is an appeal to our hearts and intellect in equal force, an appeal for human usefulness as well as human happiness, for more observers of law and fewer criminals; a plea for the saving of human life and a protest against human waste: the saving of life *before* it has been shattered and broken and besmudged. Need we wait for the catastrophe before we realize the danger?—wait for Janie Chase to become as her sister

Hattie? Shall we wait for the *fall* before we begin to lift up? Shall we not rather prevent the falling altogether by removing the stumbling blocks of ignorance, of inadequate parental guardianship, of immoral environment?

It is not a dramatic or picturesque appeal, as I have said, not emotionally thrilling or sentimentally stimulating, but common-sense, economical, *human*. Shall society not do something to rescue these young lives from the abyss of crime and sin and unhappy pain that yawns to engulf them? to rescue them to usefulness, to productiveness, to social good? to save them to a normal useful place in society, anticipating and *preventing* the need of rescue home, reformatory, and prison?

Do *you* know any little Chases? Have you heard their cry? How are we answering their cry?

North Carolina Credit Unions

An Old World Idea in New World Soil

John Sprunt Hill, Durham

I am more than glad to be here to-day to "do my bit" in the great work of this splendid Conference for devising ways and means of applying more directly to every-day life the second great command of the Master, "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

Fifty years ago, many of the nations of the Old World were forced by necessity to turn their attention to the revival of agriculture in order that the vast populations of the European cities might be properly fed,

and also in order that hosts of their discontented tenant farmers might enjoy a fair share of the profits of their labors. It is significant that every one of these nations, without exception, came to the deliberate conclusion to "Find Raiffeissen," the world's greatest apostle of organized self-help, as the best means of solving their great agricultural problem. To-day the cry for more bread and cheaper bread, and the cry for economic justice for the tenant farmer, is

heard throughout the length and breadth of the New World. Right here in North Carolina, our own distinguished Governor bravely faces the crisis in agriculture, and promises to turn his great mental powers and the main forces of his administrative energies toward the proper solution of this tremendous tenant problem. To him, and to the members of this Conference, we say in the words of Sir Frederick Nicholson to the English government, "Find Raiffeissen."

What was the main purpose of the great journey, four years ago, of the American Commission, composed of representatives from 36 states of the American Union and six provinces of Canada, in visiting European countries at a tremendous expense to themselves and to this government? It was to "Find Raiffeissen." I shall never forget the day that it first fell to my lot to find Raiffeissen in the village of Vigonova, at a meeting of the members of

AN ITALIAN CREDIT UNION

composed of about 300 farmers and their wives. A wealthy bank president, who was an ex-United States bank examiner, said to me as we were beginning to recover from our astonishment, and as we were commencing to realize Raiffeissen's real value to social service, "It is worth a trip of ten thousand miles, all the way from Colorado, to see this little thing do its wonderful work." There it was, the center of the business and social life of the country neighborhood, about five miles square. All its work was done in a little room 12 by 15, furnished with a large table, 12 chairs, a small desk, and a half-dozen books. And yet this little coöpera-

tive bank was doing a business of over \$50,000.00 per year and had over \$12,000.00 in deposits. It had outstanding short-term loans to farmers amounting to over \$13,000.00, all secured by personal endorsement and bearing 6 per cent. interest. On the day that we examined this Credit Union, it had 180 loans, nearly all of which were made to tenant farmers for the purpose of buying fertilizers and farm supplies. *Service*, not profits, was the watchword of this little democratic union, yet it had a surplus of \$3,500.00, and from every standpoint was a sound and prosperous institution. It was a complete realization of the fondest hopes of its founders. Its president was a prosperous farmer and proud to give his time to help his neighbors, and they in turn were proud of their membership in this coöperative society. It was a real inspiration to the doubting Thomases from America to see this body of thrifty, prosperous country people happily welded together under the banner of "All for one and one for all." Just 25 years before our visit to this little village in Northern Italy, these people were ground down under the heel of the usurer. The last cent had been squeezed out of an impoverished population by crop-lien prices and chattel-mortgage oppression. "Ten dollars worth of corn for twenty dollars in three months" was the rule of their "*chalk men*." So great was their distress that a public-spirited banker of a nearby city took compassion upon them, went out and showed them how to find Raiffeissen, and loaned them \$100.00 to put into the treasury of the mutual aid society

in order that it might open its doors for business.

Our Commission examined hundreds of these little country coöperative banks in nearly all of the countries of continental Europe, and the story of one is about the story of them all. There are now 5,000 Credit Unions in India, 15,000 in Russia, 17,000 in Germany, and a great many thousands more scattered throughout Continental Europe, doing a volume of business so great that it is impossible for the human mind to form a definite idea of the extent of their power and of their accomplishments in social service. But why take your time describing Old World institutions when, to-day, almost within the sound of your voices, a small body of farmers has firmly planted an Old World idea in New World soil!

LOWE'S GROVE CREDIT UNION,
DURHAM COUNTY

extends to you, and to the rest of the world, a cordial invitation to come to its little home nestling in the shadow of Lowe's Grove Farm Life School and "Find Raiffeissen." This Credit Union was organized just one year ago, under the Credit Union Law of North Carolina, the first institution of its kind in America, organized for farmers under State laws. It has 24 members, nearly all of whom reside in a single school district. It receives deposits from the entire neighborhood, but makes loans only to members. It is a typical Raiffeissen Union, slightly changed so as to fit Tar Heel conditions. Of course, we need not expect to find that Lowe's Grove Credit Union has yet fulfilled the entire purpose or yet reached a

proper state of efficiency. It takes time and patience and energy, and inspiration from high places, to weld a body of small farmers into a harmonious business organization. It takes time to root out destructive greed and root in constructive faith. The average small farmer does not become a business man in a day. You cannot industrialize agriculture in North Carolina in a single season.

Mr. William R. Camp, Superintendent of Credit Unions in North Carolina, said on December 27 last, "With only 24 members and 24 depositors, and in a section where the soil is not by any means the easiest to get returns from, the deposits of this Credit Union now amount to \$1,245.06, and total resources \$2,341.46." A letter from the Secretary of the Union says, "The total savings to the farmers who are members of Lowe's Grove Credit Union, in the matter of coöperative purchase of \$3,050.00 worth of fertilizers, was \$667.43, or a saving of about 22 per cent. by purchasing through the Credit Union over and above the old-fashioned way of individual purchasing." Not only were the fertilizers for this community purchased at a great saving, but I am more than pleased to say that loans to Lowe's Grove farmers, by the Credit Union and local banks, on personal note of each farmer endorsed by at least two members of like standing, have all been paid in a business-like manner, and without trouble to anybody. During the year these farmers have shown their faith in the coöperative idea by building, almost entirely with their own personal contributions, in labor, material or cash, an attractive

home for their Union, with a small warehouse in the rear for the storage of supplies purchased until they can be distributed.

There are now eight other organized Credit Unions in North Carolina, and many more in process of organization. Mecklenburg having led all other counties in Rural Credits enthusiasm, has established five of these coöperative credit societies for the benefit of the farmers in their respective neighborhoods. All of these Unions are doing good work, and we may safely look forward to greater success and greater credit for our Old North State, as it blazes the way for a triumphant agriculture in the New World.

A CREDIT UNION IS FIRST A SAVINGS SOCIETY

It is organized for the purpose of bringing together all the savings of a neighborhood, from members as well as non-members, and for putting these savings into such shape that they may be used for the benefit of the community from which they were drawn. The history of the world shows that Credit Unions work wonders as savings societies. Money that has been hid in bureau drawers and stockings and cracks of houses comes out of hiding and commences to draw four per cent. interest and to work for the benefit of the community.

A CREDIT UNION IS NEXT A LOAN SOCIETY

It is a mutual aid association that seeks to take care of the reasonable demands of the people of a neighborhood when in sickness and distress, and for the purpose of purchasing fertilizers and farm supplies. Loans

are made only to members and upon personal endorsement of at least two other members of the Union. The notes bear six per cent. interest, without commission or renewal fees, or any other usurious practices. In case the tenant farmer has no property at all except his usual mule and cow, in addition to personal endorsement, he is required to further secure his note by endorsement of his landlord, or he is required to give a lien on his crop to the Credit Union. This crop lien to his own Credit Union bears interest at the rate of six per cent. and furnishes him money to buy his supplies on a cash basis at the lowest possible wholesale prices, whereas the crop-lien he has been accustomed to give to the supply merchant has been costing him for his credit all the way from 40 to 60 per cent., by reason of the fact that he is compelled to pay 25 to 30 per cent. more for his supplies on credit than for cash.

THE CROP-LIEN CREDIT SYSTEM OF NORTH CAROLINA IS A DISGRACE TO OUR PEOPLE

Crop-lien credit costing the tenant farmer 50 per cent, or coöperative credit costing the tenant farmer 6 per cent., is the greatest single issue before the people of North Carolina to-day. Crop-lien credit invites reckless buying by the tenants; it puts a premium on dishonesty. It frequently converts the supply merchant, capable of rendering great service to his community, into a financial "wild-cat" that helps to destroy his community. The small farmer of North Carolina, who is bound down to the financial serfdom of 50

per cent. credit, is whipped before he starts.

THE CREDIT UNION OPENS THE DOOR OF HOPE TO THE SMALL FARMERS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Establish a Credit Union in the shadow of every farm life school in North Carolina, and you have taken the first step towards stamping out usury, stimulating thrift, reviving agriculture, and securing to the small farmer a fair share of the profits of his labors. Trained investigators employed by the Federal Government to report on agricultural conditions in North Carolina say, "Our investigation proved with the greatest clearness that the tenant farmers in North Carolina have practically no power to borrow money at any of the banks of the present type. Any movement that can persuade the average small farmer of North Carolina that his real prosperity is tied up closely with that of his neighbor, that they should coöperate together in the use of credit, would bring the *greatest possible blessing*, not only to the farmers, but to every one who lives in North Carolina." A Credit Union is not only a mutual savings society and a mutual loan society, but, last and greatest of all,

A CREDIT UNION IS A DEMOCRATIC UNION OF THE PEOPLE IN A NEIGHBORHOOD

for the purpose of upbuilding that neighborhood financially, socially and morally. It furnishes the financial machinery whereby the people of a neighborhood can put their farming operations on a cash basis, and buy their fertilizers and supplies at the lowest cash wholesale prices. It furnishes also the financial machinery

by which the people of a neighborhood can market their products in a proper manner, and dispose of all their products that are standardized at a fair price and under the control of the farmers themselves. It seeks to develop individual character and individual responsibility. It rests upon the Christian foundation of brotherly love, "Peace on earth, good will to men." Witness after witness said to us in Europe, "Establish a Raiffeissen Society in a village and before long the whole character of the people has changed." It aims to make each individual member an owner of property. It makes no war on government and honest capital. It destroys usury. It allays social unrest. Coöperation is an antidote for socialism.

CREDIT IS BASIC

My friends, allow me to say in all deference to the opinions of other participators in this great Conference, that in my opinion the foundation for social service for the small farmer in North Carolina is the Credit Union. The first step in lifting the oppression of the usurer from the neck of our country people of small means is the Credit Union. The first step in abolishing the crop-lien system in North Carolina is the Credit Union. The first step in devising ways and means for giving the small farmer of North Carolina a fair share of the profits of his labors is the Credit Union. The first step in bringing back to the hearts of our tenant farmers some of the comforts and pleasures of life is the Credit Union. The first step in establishing homes for the 150,000 tenant farmers in North Carolina is the Credit Union.

The first step in the problem of bringing back into a state of cultivation some of the 14,000,000 acres of abandoned farm lands in North Carolina is the Credit Union. Says Henry Wolff, the great English authority on coöperation, "The power to command money was what was wanted, and that led me to devote myself more especially to the cause of coöperative credit." "Better business," says Sir Horace Plunkett, "must precede and form the basis for better farming and better living." Says Ambassador Herrick, "Agricultural coöperative systems, whether aided by the state or dependent upon self-help alone, have credit societies for their basic unit." Says Carl Vrooman, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, "For half a century the Department of Agriculture has used its utmost endeavor to show the farmers how to fight the chinch-bug, the army worm, the cattle tick, the Hessian fly, and other insect pests, but did not even so much as attempt to show him how to protect himself against the costly toll levied upon the fruits of his toil by such human pests as the usurer, commercial pirates posing as legitimate elevator and commission men, and all

of the hordes of economic parasites. The Federal Department of Agriculture has not merely been reörganized, but is acquiring a new point of view." Says Clarence Poe, the distinguished editor of *The Progressive Farmer*, "We wish that the men and women of every neighborhood, who read *The Progressive Farmer*, would resolve to start a Credit Union. All over Europe these organizations have done almost everything—

1. To stimulate thrift.
2. To save landless men from usury and time prices.
3. To help tenant farmers become land owners.
4. To develop business ability and a coöperative spirit among the people."

My friends, let us gird up our loins, and join in the fight for a triumphant agriculture in North Carolina. Let us not turn our backs upon the beautiful lands that our fathers gave us, but rather let us hold out a helping hand to the struggling thousands of small farmers in North Carolina in order that they may not be forced to follow the crowds to the great industrial centers that are arising in our midst.

When Should the Child Be Turned Over to the Child-Helping Agency?

By Mrs. Blanche B. Carr, Greensboro

Certainly no iron-clad rule can be made as to when a child should be turned over to the child-helping

agency; but we can safely say it should not be done until every effort to provide a suitable home for the

child has been made by the parents, or guardian, relatives and friends.

The natural place, the proper place, the best place for a child is home. There is no place on God's beautiful earth like home. Home and mother, are two of the dearest, sweetest words in the English language; put a child in an institution and those two words mean practically nothing to him. A mother ought to mother her own children instead of breaking up the family ties. We prefer home-grown children to institution-grown children. Home-grown products are always best.

Please understand that I do not mean any reflection on any of our child-helping agencies. The great good they have done and are doing is already a well-established fact. We must have these different institutions to provide for the many who absolutely have to be placed somewhere. But there is a growing tendency to send children to the orphanage just to get rid of them. This is acknowledged and regretted by our men who stand at the head of these child-helping agencies, and so the orphanages are being filled by children who should be provided for by the churches, Christian organizations and relatives.

We so often hear it said that such and such children would be better off in an orphanage. The remark is generally made because of some abnormal condition in that home, and when perhaps giving a little advice and small financial help that condition could be remedied and the family life kept intact. Institution-grown children may get certain material advantages which could not be had in

some homes, but against that we find the loss of individuality, personality in that child which will occur in the average institution. This family-life influence is not only a priceless asset to the child, but it is of tremendous value in giving poise and happiness to the unprovided-for mother of such unprovided-for children.

I was talking to the superintendent of an orphanage this morning and he said that if we would leave out of consideration the good it is to the child and also the mother to have a home and take in consideration only the financial part, that it would still be to the interest of the church to maintain the home; it can be done with much less expense. The institution has to maintain the children, food and clothing has to be provided and bills have to be paid.

I have sometimes wondered whether or not our churches have thought seriously enough about this matter, and whether or not they have not fallen into the habit of going the way of least resistance and are sending the dependent children of their churches to their own orphanages regardless of the merits of the case—sending them away to ease their consciences. I have heard of a church in my section of the State which was in the habit of contributing liberally to its church orphanage, and yet, through thoughtlessness, no doubt, allowed in two instances fatherless children to be separated from dependent but deserving mothers; being unable to see the humanity and the wisdom and the obligation to make it possible for those mothers to raise those children in the home instead of

sending the children away to be raised in an institution.

However, I am not a competent person to stand before this audience and try to theorize; but perhaps I may be able to give some concrete cases showing how the Board of Public Welfare, of Greensboro, is putting forth every effort to keep the children at home rather than rushing off to some orphanage with them.

A widow, with six children, left penniless, none of the children large enough to work. The mother physically unfit for public work and, besides, how could she leave when three of the children were so small as to require her almost constant attention? The neighbors said, "Send the children to the orphanage; that is the only thing that can be done." Then the mother love was stirred to the uttermost depths; she would have fought to the bitter end. "Take my children away from me when they are all I have in this world? No close relatives who care for me, no home of my own, no money—nothing except my children. Take my life or leave my babies!" Two organized Sunday school classes and a young people's organization were informed of conditions and have helped make it possible for the mother and the children to remain together.

Another case where the mother and five children, the oldest not quite six years of age, were thrown on the mercies of the world. We went to the church of her faith and presented the matter to the Men's Bible class. They readily agreed to pay a stated sum each week toward house rent and provisions. It is an easy matter to secure funds when the matter is

properly presented. An organized class of young ladies agreed to pay a certain sum for a certain purpose. But best of all was the work done by the tiny tots of another Sunday school. The superintendent of the Beginners' department became interested in the case and said she thought her band of little folks could furnish milk for the baby who was really suffering for the lack of proper nourishment. The following Sunday she carried an empty milk bottle to Sunday school and, showing it to the little ones, she explained what she wanted them to do. Well, the babies wanted to put all they had in that milk bottle. It rattled as it fell in, it was something new for them; but they soon understood that this money was extra from their regular Sunday school money. They seldom forget their extra amount for the milk, nor do they let their mothers forget. For over a year they have furnished milk for dependent babies. Another one of our Sunday schools has adopted this plan—feeding babies who would otherwise, perhaps, be knocking at the door of some institution. Those children will know more about social service in a few years than most people ever dream of.

Another case where the mother was left with nine children to provide for. The church where the children attended Sunday school was interested in the case and promised to give the family a stated sum each month. This was continued several years until the family is now practically self-supporting. That mother often sent nine children to Sunday school and she has been known to go with

them—she doesn't live within a stone's throw of the church either. She is always bright and happy at her work, whether it is doing the week's laundry, making a new garment out of an old one or mending some of the numerous shoes. And how proud she is of any little accomplishments the little ones may acquire! The smallest one, barely able to lisp, can now sing "Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head" so lustily that it seems his little throat would burst. The mother's eyes sparkle with delight and the other children seemed perfectly charmed with the singer. Wish you could see and know how it all is, am sure you would say with me, "Let's keep the children at home with mother or provide some good home with relatives or friends."

Another case—but perhaps I am taking too much of the time—anyway there are several cases yet in which the churches, organized classes, Christian Endeavors, Baptist Young People's Union, Epworth Leagues, Girls' Benevolent Club, Social Service Department and the Y. W. C. A. of the State Normal College and various organizations and individuals are aiding in the effort to keep the children in the homes. The situation becomes ideal for efficient help in such cases when the church or society contributing to such support will appoint a sympathetic, tactful woman or women to advise such mothers in the difficult role of properly directing and training their children with the handicap of poverty. In our experience we have found that it works well when the church, Sunday school

class or society makes its help contingent upon regular attendance upon day school and Sunday school by such children from the time they are old enough. The local charitable organizations in such cases should require periodical reports from pastor, Sunday school teacher and day school teacher as to the health, conduct and progress of such children.

We all know there are cases when it is absolutely necessary for the child to be placed with some child-helping agency. Some are placed in the institutions when they should not be, and others are not placed when they should be.

Just one illustration here will serve for two similar cases.

About two years ago, an old man nearly 70 years of age, whose abiding place was the county home, decided that he would take unto himself a wife—it must have been in the spring time when a young man's fancy turns to love. So he wandered forth and captured a young, feeble-minded woman and married her. Shame on such laws! A baby boy was born into that home. What a heritage! Several weeks ago we had a message from a neighbor saying the baby was suffering for the lack of nourishment. We went and found them living in one room of a log cabin, the furniture too scant to describe. We saw nothing conducive to health, strength, morality or spirituality.

In our work we try to put people in a position to help themselves and, seeing that the man was too old and physically unfit for work, we turned our attention to the woman as the probable bread winner. I asked her if she could sew. She said, "Yes."

The old man said, "No, she kaint, she kaint cut out a garment and make it to save her life." I asked her if she could work in the mills. She said, "Yes." The old man quickly said, "No, she kaint, fur I done tried her. She kaint contract up her mind enough for that." As a last resort I asked her if she could do washing. She still looked at me with that expressionless face and said, "yes." The old man did not have to deny that, for I could see a sample of her work "on the line." What chance in this world has that child? Surely God in heaven gave breath to a soul who doesn't deserve a better showing than that. We, the State, the community, are guilty of the crime; the child is innocent. Let's give him at least the ghost of a chance.

Just one other illustration of occasion when it is imperative to take the child from the home.

In Greensboro—I blush to say it was my own fair town—lived a woman, a graduate of a first-class college, the daughter of a minister, who became a dope fiend and gradually sank to the lowest level. She had two nice daughters in the home, one 12, the other 6 years of age. Things went from bad to worse and one Sunday afternoon a fight occurred in the little three-room house. The officers of the law went and found 16 men in the house. Most of them went free, of course—they were men. The mother and the two helpless, innocent children were carried to the lock-up. Some interested people went and secured the children. Within two days the younger child was carried to a orphanage and arrangements were being made to place the

other girl in an institution. Before she went away I carried her to see her mother and on our way home I noticed she was very sad. I tried to cheer her by telling her of the place to which she was going. In a way I spoke of the place where she had been living and asked her if she wasn't glad of the opportunity to go where she could be comfortable and have such splendid advantages. She lifted her face to mine; great tears were coursing their way down her cheeks and with trembling voice she said, "Yes, but, Mrs. Carr, that was home and mother." Such a home! God forgive us for allowing it in Greensboro! Intemperance and immoral conduct had deadened the mother instinct for the care and protection of the little ones. They had gone hungry and cold and suffered from neglect, but still it was "home and mother."

If anything unusual has been accomplished in Greensboro in this direction of making it possible for dependent children to remain in the home, the explanation is that we have in Greensboro's Board of Public Welfare a community charitable organization, one of whose privileges it is to make it possible for any dependent, deserving mother to retain her home and keep her children by forming the connecting link between such homes and the various organized classes and religious and community societies of Greensboro that have been willing and glad to lend a helping hand. It is most desirable that there be in every city and town an agency of this kind to seek out these deserving dependent cases and bring them in touch and under the influence of some Sunday school and church.

County Health Work

By D. C. Absher, M.D., Henderson

During the ten minutes which you are very kindly giving to the consideration of County Health Work, I shall discuss the work only as done by the full-time health officer.

The conservation of the public health through the use of the full-time health officer is becoming more and more popular; so much so that the people in counties not having them are anxious to learn what the health officer does, what he has accomplished, and what he expects to accomplish.

Each full-time health officer probably has a different problem to face. Each must know just which diseases constitute the greatest menace to the lives of the people of his particular county; he must also know how to get the coöperation of his particular people, how to combat their prejudices and superstitions, and how to prevent petty politics from putting an end to the whole thing.

When a county puts on a full-time health officer, it is amusing to hear the various things the people expect of him, but it would take too much time to mention them here. There is a wide-spread belief, however, and some health officials share in that belief, that a health officer can keep people from dying. Unfortunately, the health officer is not endowed with such power. Only the Almighty Himself can make people live forever. Nevertheless, the full-time health officer, when he has the proper co-

operation of the people, can, by preventing preventable diseases, enable people to live longer, and he can assist them to reach the age of "three-score years and ten" which, Holy Writ tells us, are the days of man. I take the position that if Divine authority has allotted "three-score years and ten" to man, it must always be due to human fault if we fail to attain that age.

In order to enable people to reach the Biblical age, we must prevent the deaths of babies from such diseases as measles and summer diarrhea; we must prevent flies and mosquitoes; we must prevent deaths of adults from typhoid and tuberculosis; we must teach youths the dangers of syphilis and gonorrhea; and lastly we must teach the middle-aged how so to live that they may avoid focal infections, hardened arteries, Bright's disease, apoplexy and paralysis.

The health officer, by means of lectures, literature, and other educational methods, endeavors to teach the people theoretically and practically how to avoid the diseases mentioned. His aim always is to reason with people and to lead them, rather than drive them, for although he has authority to force people to do certain things, he realizes that his office is one of the few that can be done away with if the people don't get what they want. As a matter of fact, it *ought* to be one of the *very* few offices which should always be filled. Unfor-

tunately, even in this great liberty-loving country of ours, people very often want things that are not best for them, and *vice versa*. By this method of showing the folks the reason for doing the things we do, our progress is slow, but the result will probably be better in the end.

But to find out just what really has been achieved, the recent report of one full-time county health officer in this State is a concrete example. The report referred to shows that during the past two years that health officer has made a medical inspection of 4,000 school children, inoculated 4,500 persons against typhoid, vaccinated 3,700 persons against smallpox, visited and instructed all known cases of tuberculosis in his county, treated 75 persons and cured them of hook-worm disease, secured through the coöperation of the County Board of Education the construction of two improved privies at every white and colored school in the county. More homes than ever before had been screened against flies and mosquitoes as a result of his educational efforts in lectures, fair exhibits, and literature. Quarantine rules and regulations had been so enforced that no epidemic of any disease had been so serious as to necessitate the closing of any school for a single day, and in addition to his preventive work he had attended all cases of illness among the inmates of the County Home and jail. An index to the efficiency of that work is the fact that the deaths from typhoid in his county were reduced from 45 in 1913, to 2 in 1916.

In the county referred to the health officer is employed jointly by the city

and county. For the city, in addition to the things mentioned, he instructs and supervises the sanitary inspector, keeps record of vital statistics, enforces sewer connections where possible, inspects dairies, and so on.

So much for what has been accomplished. As to future work: There are approximately 6,000 deaths from tuberculosis; 2,000 deaths from infantile diarrhoea; 600 deaths from measles; 400 deaths from whooping cough; 1,000 deaths from typhoid; per year in North Carolina. That's the problem in part. The county health officer must have the assistance of a nurse in order to intensify the fight against tuberculosis and the summer diseases of infancy. Tuberculosis is our biggest public health problem, and it can be wiped out. There is no other way to do it than by the coöperative efforts of health officer and nurse. The assistance of a nurse will enable the health officer to have some time for the examination of people for tuberculosis in its incipency. By that means many persons will be cured who otherwise would die of the disease, for we know that tuberculosis is as curable as any other disease *if* treatment is begun during the incipient stage. By the assistance of the nurse, mothers will be taught how to prepare food for babies suffering with "fly-disease." She will continue to hammer in the instruction as to screening, and the thousand and one other things that about three-fourths of us need to be reminded of often.

The time has passed for even a full-time man to do everything, for unfortunately there are only 24 hours

in each day. In building up the county health work, the county health officer has had to be his own office clerk and stenographer, his own public health nurse, his own sanitary inspector, his own bacteriologist, his own quarantine officer, his own medical inspector of schools, his own physician to County Home and jail,—in short, he must have help, for, as the work progresses, greater and greater demands are made upon his time. New work is constantly coming up; for example, right now, the periodic examination of adults between the ages of 30 and 65 is being brought to the front. Deaths from heart trouble and Bright's disease are on the increase, and the health officer must be able to find those diseases in their incipency. In the near future, it will perhaps prove to be the most valuable public health work that can be done. In making these examinations the health officer will be able to detect the beginning of the degenerative diseases long before the subject feels sick enough to consult his physician for treatment. While the health officer will make no attempt to treat people for any of the diseases that may be found at these periodical examinations, the discovery of the early changes will enable the people to consult their physician and to make such

changes in their manner of living as will enable them to postpone old age and prolong the most valuable and fruitful period of human life.

There are many other sides to county health work which might be discussed, but I shall not attempt to name more. Slowly the people are coming around to the belief that it is as important to conserve human life as it is to conserve pig life, and the county health officer is the man to carry the information and service into the homes of all the people.

It has been said that all human misery is due either to ignorance, disease, or poverty. There is perhaps greater ignorance of the cause and prevention of disease than of any other one subject. When information and service is carried into homes, and ignorance is cured and disease prevented, poverty vanishes of itself. Is the end worthy of the means?

I would not close this paper, brief, and hastily prepared though it is, without paying tribute to the women and women's organizations in the various counties which have been of the greatest assistance in establishing county health work. A large part of the success of the work has undoubtedly been due to their zeal and coöperation.

A Visit to Caswell Training School

Mrs. J. F. Parrott, Kinston

It seems to me that the most profitable way for us to use the few minutes allotted for the consideration of

the needs and possibilities of the Caswell Training School for Mental Defectives, is to imagine a visit to the

institution. I would that all of you could make this visit in person, for it is impossible to record all the impressions that crowd upon us, when we go and see for ourselves just what is being done to help those unfortunate human beings. They are human, though some of them seem little more than animated flesh and bones. We realize that they are the "least of these" for whom we must care, if we hope to merit our Savior's commendation.

As we drive up to the school, we notice the broad, fertile farming lands, the gift of the little city of Kinston, near which it is located. In warm weather we should see the boys at work on the crops, learning to contribute materially to their own support. The pastures are dotted with handsome cattle, which supply nourishing food for the children. The boys are trained to feed and milk them.

As we approach the buildings, we note they are plain and simple, but dignified in their architecture.

Doctor McNairy, the superintendent, greets us heartily, and we are ushered into his office where we hear a brief lecture on eugenics, and learn that three-fourths of the children are here because of hereditary influences. He tells us there are 190 inmates, and that 200 applications are on file. There are three grades of mental defectives: The idiot, the imbecile, and the moron. The last group it is not always easy to recognize as feeble-minded. They are often attractive in appearance and, to the casual observer, seemingly normal. For the good of the higher grades, each should be separated from the lower. At the

present time, the buildings are inadequate for this purpose.

We are invited to go first to the rooms occupied by the lowest type of girls. We recoil a little at this. We would rather not see them, but the desire to help strengthens our courage and we follow Doctor McNairy into the sleeping wards. There is nothing repulsive here. There are 22 little white beds, each immaculate. The floor has recently been scrubbed. This is a daily task for proper sanitation. We think how much labor will be saved, when the new building, which is so much needed, with its cement floor, will be erected. In an adjoining room, probably 20 by 40 feet, are huddled 22 poor little idiots. They eat here and live here all day long. It is the only place provided for them. The room has no equipment, no furnishings save a board table and a few chairs; and yet, through patience they, who could not even hold a spoon, have been taught to feed themselves.

The little blue, crooked feet, a characteristic of this type, that can never wear shoes and stockings, have been trained to walk, and their shrieks and howls have been softened through kindness. They cannot talk nor understand when spoken to, yet they hold out their arms to be caressed just as our babies do, and their faces are brightened by our sympathetic smiles. We wonder that Doctor McNairy's heart can be so big that it is a pleasure to him to serve these dwarfed stunted beings. We marvel to learn that the nurses are giving not only their days, but the long hours of the night, a sacrifice on the altar of that noblest of all motives—

compassion for human suffering.

We leave them, and downstairs in the same building we find the imbecile girls. There is the same neatness in the sleeping apartment, but there are so many little beds and the space is so small, there is less than 12 inches between them. This is neither desirable from a standpoint of discipline nor sanitation. There is one dressing room, where the children's clothes are placed in open boxes, in small trunks, and in wooden receptacles built in the wall. There are only a few modern steel sanitary lockers which will contain the clothes of a dozen out of 50 girls. Imbecility has laid heavy marks on these children. Their speech is broken and foolish, and their very appearance repulsive. But they can be taught to care for themselves and perform many simple tasks about the institution. They are remarkably happy here together. They had met with ridicule and misunderstanding since their birth, for few besides a mother have any forbearance with them. Here, what little talent they have is encouraged. One girl, whose only accomplishment, besides running and eating, is the ability to play a mouth harp, is glad to play for you. Another has learned to make tatting, and she sits and makes yards of it, smiling when you praise her work.

There is an almost empty room with a few sewing machines in it where the highest type of girls learn to make their own clothes.

In the other dormitory for girls there is a Sunday school room, one classroom with no equipment save desks and blackboards, and the same crowded sleeping apartments and

dressing-room. There is no recreation room; no home room, we might call it, with good pictures, comfortable chairs, attractive simple books for those who can read a little, and delightful childish games for rainy days and long evenings.

The same condition is found in the boys' building, which like the others, is comfortably heated and airy.

The need is imperative for more dormitories for those now in the institution, and for the hundreds seeking admittance; for an industrial building, properly equipped for the training of the high-grade defectives, many of whom may become quite proficient in some of the simpler occupations under proper supervision; for an infirmary; for a separate home for the idiots; and for recreation rooms for both sexes. Many more children could be trained with the use of a properly equipped classroom with movable furniture, with space enough for correct exercise of undeveloped limbs, and equipment sufficient, so that each pupil with "one talent only," so to speak, could have the opportunity to follow the bent of his one idea, and through training and direction be developed along that line. Since individual instruction is an absolute necessity, funds for a larger number of trained instructors is another very evident need.

We have selected a Sunday afternoon, and when the children have assembled for Sunday school. We notice their cleanliness, their splendid order, and their happy faces. One who visited the institution at its beginning can readily observe their improvement and development. Regular wholesome food and outdoor ex-

ercise have put fresh blood in their veins and flesh on their bodies.

The teacher, without announcing the hymn, plays a line, and the whole audience bursts into one joyous chorus, "We shall see the King some day!" How they love to sing! One little fellow who cannot say a word keeps time with his hands and feet. Their memory is remarkable, their happiness is infectious. It inspires faith in our own hearts that the noble work shall be carried on to a larger development. Let us, as women, cry *Bravo* to our Legislators, who, though the appeals are many and their means limited, have founded the Caswell Training School, which has brought hope to many a mother that a home shall be provided for her helpless offspring.

There is another phase of the situation. The danger in allowing the high-grade defectives to mingle, unrestricted, in society. Our prisons and almshouses are full of them. Many eventually become the wards of the State. So why not place them in institutions in their childhood, before their souls have been blackened by sin, where, under wise direction, they

may be led to a degree of self-control, and to a large extent become self-supporting?

It is estimated that about two per cent. of the school population are feeble-minded. Your children, mothers, and mine, sit beside them in the schoolroom, and converse with them daily.

It has been said that a river is typical of the life of a man. Just as its growth is the outcome of small tributary streams, so a man's life is fed by the many different influences of its environment. Are you willing that a mind capable only of distorted views shall influence your child in his tender years? No! Adequate provision must be made for these unfortunate people. Opportunity must be given Doctor McNairy and his assistants for further study of the prevalence and effects of these conditions from a scientific standpoint, in order that correct facts may be widely disseminated, and the public generally may be brought to a realization of the enormity of the crime of feeble-mindedness and a knowledge of its prevention.

The State and Her Prison Camps

Miss Daisy Denson, Raleigh

Rabindranath Tagore, the Hindu poet and seer, wrote in the Hindu language and then translated into English his beautiful and mystical drama, "The King of the Dark Chamber," this King, the Creator of Man. One of the songs in that play, sung by the follower of the King, is thus:

"We are all kings in the kingdom of our King—

Were it not so, how could we hope in our heart to meet Him?

We do what we like, yet we do what he likes;

We are not bound with the chain of fear at the feet of a slave-owning king.

Were it not so, how could we hope in our heart to meet Him?

Our king honors each one of us, thus
 honors his own very self.
 No littleness can keep us shut up in its
 walls of untruth for aye—
 Were it not so, how could we hope in our
 heart to meet Him?
 We struggle and dig our own path, thus
 reach His path at the end.
 We can never get lost in the abyss of dark
 night.
 Were it not so, how could we in our heart
 hope to meet Him?"

And the Christian Bible teaches us that God made man in his own image. Alas! It is man's inhumanity to man which has broken and scarred and marred that image. Indifference; ignorance; selfishness; want of charity, stones cast into the still pool which a moment before reflected the sky above, destroy that lovely heaven-born reflection and in ever-widening circles send their waves unto the uttermost shore: nor is there aught upon the bosom of the water that does not feel its trembling. Man does not live alone; each life touches for good or evil other lives, and the circles widen and widen. Life should be happier; life was meant to be a happy sojourn here. Then, if in normally and orderly lives most of us fail more or less to attain the full joy of living, what can be said of the mentally sick, the blind and deaf, the crippled and maimed and, O my friends! those who have, perhaps, had little chance the—unfortunate, the misguided in the full sense of that word; those brothers of ours who in stripes, under the gun and under the bloody lash, day by day, groan in suffering which you do not realize, but for which you too are responsible.

I am here to-day to plead that you rest not until this blot upon our fair

State is removed by substituting for archaic measures those of the modern care of prisoners. Our prison system, or want of a system, is many years behind the times. It is based upon wrong ideas. We do not place men behind prison bars avowedly to make money out of them, and yet that is the chief result as our prison is now administered. Revenue comes first; the men are incidental. From this basis follow all sorts of evil. Everything is stinted; men are forced to work when they are physically unable; clothing, food and care are of the most meager quality; and the housing not fit for cattle. I am speaking now of the camps at the State Farm. A beautiful farm of over seven thousand acres, the golden wheat glinting in the sunshine of heaven, the cotton covering the brown earth with the beauty and purity of the snow, and the men sleeping in three-deck structures of iron rods with beds in long rows, side by side, crowded, unsanitary, unclean wooden shacks, that may burn at any minute, not as good as the stables housing the stock. Over and over again have new buildings been recommended and asked for at the farm. At last we now hope to get them. Governor Craig and Governor Bickett both have asked the Legislature to provide proper buildings. This will be a great improvement, but we need a change in the manner of managing our prison. We need a Board with alternating terms and one that will have real power to do what is best for the men. We, of all things, must ask that the prison management be freed from petty politics. Our men are statesmen building a great progressive State. Aside

from the wrong now perpetrated against the defenceless, it is a poor policy to make any institution the reward or the football of any political party. Our men are bigger men. I am sure they will do the right thing in this matter. Our people will rise above everything small and remember the prisoners who are suffering, who have no uplifting influences, no school, no regular moral training; yea, I tell the truth, when I say they are daily learning evil, the younger men,—seventy-five under 80, sixty-nine between 18 and 21, 114 under 21, in the 900 under the prison directors,—they are housed without any classification. These young men learn from the older and worst types of men horrible and unnamable vices. A woman cannot tell you the immoral conditions. There must be different housing with separate cells and classification of prisoners.

But new buildings will not suffice. There must be in charge men who know the newer methods and who will train and reform and return prisoners to the community better and not worse men. Some time ago, I made a special visit to the State Farm and, during the months since, released men, pale from recent prison life, have come to me and have laid bare the inner life of the prison, laid bare their very hearts. They are not marked men, they are among you and

you don't know it; they are just like you and me. They are back again in the world. And why have they come to *me*? Not by any request of mine, but entirely of their own volition. They say they cannot rest upon their comfortable beds and eat their food in peace until they speak for the poor creatures they have left groaning and suffering in those camps. They come asking through me, a representative of a State Board, to ask that *North Carolina* do one thing: *look at conditions as they really are*. They doubt not the will of the people to change such conditions and do justice to all men. Not one of them has had the slightest doubt of the people of this State, and I beg you to use the influence of this great Conference for a change, for prison reform. I put their cause in the hands of Governor Bickett, who I believe, is going to be one of our greatest Governors, one standing for humanity first. I put it into the hands of the General Assembly representing all the people and ready to do their will; into your hands, *the people*, whose responsibility and duty it is to demand that justice shall be done to all within our borders.

“No littleness can keep us shut up in its walls of untruth, for aye—

Were it not so, how could we in our heart hope to meet Him?”

The Rural School in the Program of Social Welfare

S. M. Brinson, New Bern

The lines of Goldsmith fairly well suggest the interest felt not many years ago in the rural schools:—"Sits the school house by the way, a ragged beggar sunning."

Despite its neglect, tragic and pathetic, its contribution to this republic has been great. Within its walls many of the great men of our history found their first stimulus and only path to large achievement.

In the early days the problems of education centered wholly about this rural school. As the small groups of citizens developed into the larger, the towns and cities, other problems were added, but, in North Carolina and in the South generally, this problem of education is yet largely a rural school problem. That about 75 per cent. of our population live in the country is a fact which holds for us both a promise and a challenge. It holds the promise of environment naturally helpful and stimulating, a life simpler and freer from the vices and temptations which beset youth in the towns and cities.

"No splendid poverty, no smiling care,
No well-bred hate, or servile grandeur
there."

—Young.

The free, open, invigorating air of the country is nature's best contribution to the unfolding life. Conditions so favorable naturally to wholesome development should have our best and most earnest thought to the end that possibilities so great should have largest realization, and nothing tend-

ing to lessen or impair to any degree, or in any way, the fine efficiency of these natural conditions should be permitted. The urban population should be as active as the rural in maintaining or improving these rural conditions. The policy of inducing the thrifty and successful farmer to leave the country and move to town is of doubtful wisdom.

While it takes from the country an element of real value, there is grave question as to the addition of any real value to the town. The intelligent and patriotic citizen, whether in country or town, is interested in maintaining wholesome conditions in the country. Both a selfish and an unselfish consideration will induce this interest on his part.

We are all one people in this State, and our interests are so interwoven that prosperity of one class must help in some degree the others. This inter-dependence is most noticeable, perhaps, in the relation of farmer and merchant, and each, unless he be singularly short-sighted, should have a concern for the welfare of the other.

Most of our North Carolina towns find their main support in the country which immediately surrounds them. The prosperity of that country district tributary to town will largely determine the prosperity of the town. A prosperous, contented, broad-minded, generous-souled country community is the State's best asset considered from the moral, economic or

political viewpoint. To conserve this great value to the State our best and most unselfish labors should be enlisted.

"A bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroyed, can never be supplied."

No happier, more contented being can be found, I think, than the farmer who sees about him favorable conditions for living, and knows that his own intelligence and enterprise evolved these conditions from the old, poorly tilled farm out there amid surroundings lacking in all the essentials of progress.

What are some of these essentials?

There are several but, measured by the character and motive of its ministry, as well as by its extent, I doubt if any will take precedence over the school. The present indications are that the school must be looked to largely, in the future, to lead in all the movements for rural uplift.

However much the country school of to-day may be criticized, its progress in the last fifteen years has been greater than the city school, and in most of the country communities it is better equipped to-day for leadership in wholesome enterprises than any other available agency. This is said in spite of its known limitations and the obstacles in its way to a real and lasting efficiency.

This, then, is the challenge:

Will the State, whose best defense is the school, meet it? Will the State, whose character is shaped and destiny fixed by the product of the school, be content to give it meagre, sometimes grudging, support while it lavishes its favors upon other enterprises more skilled in the arts of the

lobby, more favored with adroit political leadership?

The country school in North Carolina has an ever-widening mission. He, who has been in touch with it during the past fifteen years, has seen its influence touching matters wholly foreign to its accepted mission twenty years ago.

The country school of to-day and to-morrow must minister to the moral, the social, the physical and economic needs of the community while it functions at its old task of putting the text book matter into the heads of the children.

As a *moral force* the school has, perhaps, its largest work. However keenly edged the intellect of its product may be, if there be lacking a good, strong moral sense, a disposition to approve and lend aid to things of moral worth, to speak the truth and respect one's obligations; if there is not this moral bent given to the life—then somewhere, in home environment and influence, in heredity, or in the school, some one has failed, tragically failed.

The normal boy, without the handicap of tainted blood or degrading home influence, should come out of the school with good feeling toward his schoolmates and wholesome sympathy for all mankind.

The school should not, can not, usurp the functions of the church, but it should be its ally in planting deep and constantly watering good, strong, moral teaching. In many country communities religious services are far apart, frequently a month intervening. We not infrequently find communities without either church or Sunday school ad-

vantages. Of real service to these communities are teachers who implant in the mind of the child a reverence for God's Word and can find in that Book illustrations of much that is taught in the text books and, indeed, explanation of many natural phenomena puzzling to the child's mind.

The jealous guardians of the Constitution may raise an issue just here, but a reference to that Constitution will find a grateful acknowledgment of the mercies of God and, on each Thanksgiving Day, the Chief Executive of our State issues a solemn document, with the seal of the State affixed, calling upon us all to render thanks to God for all the blessings we enjoy. To teach the goodness of God and inculcate the principles he enjoins upon us is no greater invasion of our liberties than are the declarations of the Constitution and the Governor's annual proclamation.

A life without some feeling of moral responsibility is a constant menace to the State and a burden to society. Again, the rural school of the future must become—and it rapidly is becoming—a large factor in the social life of the community. The worst feature of rural life is the isolation we sometimes find there, an isolation which has reaped a rich harvest of narrow, provincial views and customs. Many ills of a moral and physical sort are traceable to this living apart from one's fellows.

Denial of social intercourse must result in unsymmetrical character. The schoolhouse should be, and will be, in the future, the social center of the community. Here, at stated times, and with growing frequency, I think, the grown people of the

neighborhood will meet for exchange of views touching neighborhood matters, for common counsel and planning for concerted effort in community work. The rural school of the future should more nearly relate its work to the life of the community and the probable life occupation of the pupils.

This suggests the economic feature of its service. We have already, very wisely, in North Carolina taken into account the need of scientific training for the farm. We were rather slow in appreciating the fact that the vast majority of the country boys and girls could never avail themselves of the training of college grade provided, but, while tardy in appreciating this condition, the State is doing well now and will do better, I feel sure, in providing scientific training in agriculture and domestic economy for the High School boys and girls of the State.

The results thus far attained offer ample evidence of the wisdom of this provision. The first school of this character established is now in its fourth year and is crowded to its doors with eager, ambitious boys and girls whose value to their home community and to the State has been multiplied many times by the training received here.

We are fast learning that the effort to place the city graded school in the country is ill-advised, however commendable the spirit which prompts it. The conditions in the country require larger provision for high school instruction, but this school, in its spirit and in its curriculum, should tend to hold the young man on the farm and give him training for its skillful handling.

With all the wise provision we have made for the secondary schools, the school of first consideration with us, of primal importance, is the elementary school. That which touches the life first and at its formative period claims our warmest sympathy and largest support. Any influence which hurts the efficiency of that school, shortens its term or limits the scope of its useful ministry, is a baneful influence, which has its root in ignor-

ance or viciousness.

Any political system which would make other consideration than that of efficiency for its holy service as bases for its administration should be destroyed, root and branch.

Passivity, indifference, misdirected zeal, have contributed to its hurt. To the defense of that school we should bring a zeal according to knowledge and a courage grounded in deep and abiding faith.

"The Rural School in the Program of Social Welfare"

S. G. Atkins, Winston-Salem

I notice that our subject does not say "Problem" of Social Welfare. The word, "Problem," would have made the discussion more difficult as this would have indicated "a matter of uncertainty requiring further light to determine the truth, especially when difficult or uncertain of solution."

"Program" is more definite and indicates that we have found a measure of the truth, and know pretty well what is required to be done.

I take it, therefore, that our subject, "The Rural School in the Program of Social Welfare," implies that we have already set before us definite objects and more or less definite means and methods of obtaining these objects. Social Welfare, what is it? A striking answer is afforded by the statement of the Aim of this Conference:

"To study and improve the social, civic, economic and moral conditions in our State, especially conditions that injuriously affect child life, or tend to perpetuate preventable ig-

norance, disease, degeneracy or poverty among the people of our State."

We have studied and fairly well appraised these conditions, and have made a program, and now we are to address ourselves to the execution of this program. It becomes my duty to discuss the place of the rural school in this process, especially with reference to the Negro portion of our citizenship. As a matter of fact whatever will carry forward this program for one people will accelerate it for all the people, the program to be elaborated and intensified only in the ratio of the unsatisfactoriness of the condition.

I assume that this becomes a serious undertaking in the interest of all our people, basing this assumption on the fact that Social Welfare takes a leading place in the discussions of this Conference, with the distinguished Chief Magistrate of the commonwealth as the principal speaker on this topic. Indeed, what can more thoroughly justify our attention than the improvement of social, civic,

economic, and moral conditions in our State?

The portion of the State's citizenship which I represent must necessarily take its place in this marching column with serious and peculiar handicaps.

What is the place of the Negro rural school in this program, and what can it do to promote it? I am eager to give my answer to this question, but I must call your attention to the fact that the whole question of race adjustment in our Southland is bound up with the question whether our Negro population is to be increasingly rural or increasingly urban, whether it is to be increasingly northern or increasingly southern. Not only is this a question of race adjustment; it is a question that also largely involves the economic progress and economic independence of our Southland.

If the Negro rural school can do its legitimate work the reaction will be of far-reaching significance. We believe it is best for the Negro and best for our State that our Negro population *shall be* increasingly rural and increasingly southern. It is, of course, out of the question for me to follow up this observation at this time. But I am profoundly concerned that the Negro rural school shall play its part in the great program and that, as a result, we shall have a thrifty, intelligent, happy Negro rural population, increasing in number and going forward in all things that spell social, civic, economic, and moral progress.

I believe that the Negro rural school must necessarily be the chief agency in the accomplishment of this

great result, as it must have most to do with the great work of child betterment and with the creation of a wholesome environment for the Negro child.

Through the growing child under the influence of a well-ordered school, and as a result of the activities which should center about the Negro rural school, the whole atmosphere of the Negro's social life will be toned up, and the negro population become a positive quantity in the body of the State's citizenship.

It has been but a short time since the expression "Social Welfare" has been applicable to the life of my race. The Negro people have been gregarious rather than social, and their progress in the direction of social betterment has been slow. The church has been their social center since their emancipation; and, while the Negro church has fostered community interest and exerted a steadying religious influence, it could do but little to promote a wholesome social life. Nevertheless, this religious community contact has furnished whatever social experience the Negro has had, although its effect could scarcely be considered as including what might be termed Social Welfare.

This was perhaps necessarily so, as the Negro's church has not always been on too broad lines, his church affiliation being largely sectarian, and too often resulting in social disintegration rather than in constructive coöperative community building. This, of course, has not been so apparent in those communities where practically all the Negro people have belonged to the same denomination.

But Negroes are usually so aggressively denominational that they unfortunately often become sectarian, and thus the Negro church has not been as much as it should have been the center of a wholesome constructive social life for the Negro people. But the rural public school is emphatically the people's institution and should be made the rallying point for their community activities and interests.

It is the one available agency for that purpose, but this availability will, of course, depend upon the efficiency of the school, and upon what it is prepared to do for the people in the community where it is located.

Doctor Claxton, the United States Commissioner of Education, has said that the only solution of the county school problem—white or colored—is the teacher.

I think that this statement cannot be questioned. The first step, I would say, then, in making the rural school perform its function in the program of Social Welfare is a properly qualified teacher, a teacher educated and trained to bring up the children placed in his care so that these children will be able to utilize the forces about them for their own welfare and the welfare of the community in which they are to live, a teacher who can be a rural community leader of such breadth of knowledge, clearness of vision, and practical efficiency in rural affairs, that thrift, contentment, and true culture will gradually characterize the life of the community in which he teaches. If I should be asked to name the dominant need of Negro rural life in North Carolina to-day

(and of all Negro life in the State, for that matter) I would answer unhesitatingly an adequate supply of well-qualified teachers for the Negro rural schools. But, of course, the rural school must have a suitable equipment, and this equipment should be related to the particular needs of the children living in that community. I would not commercialize and materialize education in the county any more than I would in the city. The fact that rural education stays close to nature and capitalizes her forces does not mean that it shall not be cultural, does not mean that there shall be less of the ethical or esthetic quality.

If the forces of nature and the claims of country life are properly recognized and scientifically appropriated, whether by white people or by black people, their character will be toned up and strengthened, and their life grounded in a condition of true happiness.

I would train the Negro teacher properly, which should include knowledge of and skill in the arts of country life, and I would have him live on the school grounds as a demonstrator in home life and practical economical living. I think, too, that it would be a fine thing if the teachers in our city schools could live on or near the school grounds for the same reason.

I am praying to live to see the day in our good Old North State when there shall be a modern, well-equipped schoolhouse in every rural community of the State, with a teacher's cottage hard by, and the right sort of teacher living in that cottage, with the right sort of wife, or husband, as

the case may be, furnishing a demonstration of the true type of home and affording a center for the social life and social welfare interests of that community. This school through its social and civic activities should afford variation, entertainment, and instruction for its pupils and for the other young people of the community.

It should also be a center for the entertainment of the older people as well, the mothers and fathers, who toil from day to day. Many a tired, discouraged parent might here be refreshed and comforted through the well-planned occasions arranged by the well-trained teacher of good common sense, a teacher possessing the industry and consecration to make fruitful use of his training and talents.

In the language of Prof. John Dewey, "The school is really the property of the people of the district; they feel that they are more or less responsible for what is done there. Any wider activities that a school may undertake are to a certain extent the work of the people themselves; they are simply making use of the school plant for their own needs."

The realization of these educational and social ideals will, of course, depend on the stability, tranquility of mind, and permanent quality of the population in the school district. This stability and permanent quality in our rural population will, in turn, depend upon the progress made by the people in land ownership, farm improvement, especially upon the resultant well-ordered, contented family life.

Those were inspired and prophetic words of our honored Governor when he declared in his inaugural address

the other day, that he would "neither rest nor permit the State to rest until every honest, industrious and frugal man who tills the soil has a decent chance to own it."

The Negro rural school should help the Negro land owner living about it to get the most out of his land. Scientific farming and gardening along intensive lines should be illustrated by the school garden connected with every rural school. The teacher should be a skilled agriculturist and should demonstrate skill in general agriculture, in horticulture, in poultry raising, and in the care of stock. He should stimulate interest in stock breeding and the care and feeding of stock, and help the people of the community in which he teaches to know the importance of taking a *loaded* wagon to town and returning with an *empty one*.

In emphasizing the importance of the right kind of rural population in producing the desired educational and social condition among the rural population, we are very properly emphasizing the absolute necessity of *parental coöperation* in all of our rural school work.

I wish in this connection and as a fitting close of this paper to make a plea for the Negro woman.

She is one of the greatest burden bearers in all the life of our Southland. She is too often a little less than a beast of burden. It would mean so much for the race if the rural Negro child, if every Negro child, could be better born and better nursed! The Negro woman holds the keys to the situation of her race, but she has a hard lot, a worse lot by far than the Negro man.

She has little protection and so few

incentives to self-respect, and so many direct and indirect suggestions, in her race and out of it, that it makes no difference about her. Maternal propulsion for the Negro child is often a lost chord in the effort of the race to attune its life to the music of our modern civilization. This music must necessarily be crude and unsatisfying, if not grotesque, unless this chord is discovered and restored.

My plea for race encouragement and race coöperation through a more efficient system of rural education for the Negro race may well have its chief emphasis and climax in my plea for Negro womanhood and Negro motherhood,—for it is from this source must spring and proceed the best in the life of my race; the best in the life of every race.

"Against the background grim of sullen
strife
Floats a pure pennon with its cross of
peace;
It speaks of love—not hate—not death—
but life;
It promises the dreamed-of day when
war shall cease.

"When none shall write of custom, race,
or creed,
Manhood itself shall hold *mankind* in
awe,
Each nation's only burden, *others' need*,
And sympathy shall hold the silken
bonds of law.

"When man—white, black, or red, or what
you will,—
Will read upon that flag which floats
above,
'Bear ye each other's burdens'—thus fulfill
The Law of Christ: the love of law—the
law of love!"

Social Progress in Cotton Mill Communities

By W. R. Lynch, Spray

Few people realize to what magnitude the cotton manufacturing industry has grown in North Carolina during recent years. Perhaps fewer still have any adequate conception of the tremendous contribution of this industry to the moral, social and economic progress of our fair State. It is not only converting raw cotton into a fine finished product, but, of vastly greater importance, humanly speaking, it is discovering and converting raw crude human material from the isolated mountain cove, the rural and urban community, into a prosperous, happy, industrious citizenship.

You have surely heard the tread of that vast industrial army representing nearly 10 per cent. of our entire population as it marches forward, leaving its impress upon the social, civic and economic life of the entire State, gathering momentum with each passing day. From this army the captains of the State's greatest manufacturing industry of to-morrow are coming. Already their influence is being felt from one end of our commonwealth to the other. What a wonderful field of opportunity is offered the young men of to-day!

The process of discovering and developing the human factor in the industry has been called welfare work. It is of this phase of social progress that I have been asked to speak. No program of social progress in North Carolina would be complete that did not include the welfare work of the cotton manufacturing industry.

The cotton manufacturers have assumed a greater responsibility for the welfare and progress of their people than any other group or community within the State. Wonderful advances have been made in recent years in this important work; it is no longer in an experimental stage, neither is it a thing for spectacular advertising. It means infinitely more than a barbecue or a fireworks' display. Welfare work has assumed a place of dignity in the industry along with that of cost and production.

Progressive cotton manufacturers well know that good health and contentment are prime requisites of efficient work; and that money spent to obtain these is neither charity nor philanthropy, but good business judgment. And yet, is there any question as to who receives the greater benefits from this work?

These far-sighted business men, being satisfied with nothing but the best for their people, have appreciated the necessity for a carefully thought-out, constructive program of coöperative community effort. Neither time nor money has been spared in realizing this purpose. Numbers of trained workers have been employed and are devoting their entire time to community betterment work. It is not unusual to find as

many as a score or more of such workers in a single community of four or five thousand people, each charged with an individual responsibility for a particular phase of the community work, and yet all working in harmony to the one end.

Much time and thought have been devoted to the matter of health conservation and, as a result, a type of constructive health work has been inaugurated that would do credit to some of the best cities of the State and Nation. The practical elimination of typhoid and malaria and the handling of contagion in many of these communities are noticeable examples.

Several of these communities maintain well-equipped emergency and general hospitals, each with its medical and nursing staff.

Some of the best visiting nurses' organizations of the entire country are to be found in these communities. These splendid, unselfish women are rendering a great service in their enlightening, helpful mission. The most of them are trained, not only in dealing with accident and disease, but in matters of domestic economy, especially with reference to foods, their values and preparation. Many of these communities are years ahead of their city neighbors in this work, as well as in that of the school nurse. It was a cotton mill community that introduced the first school nurse in the State, if not in the entire South.

Such splendid progressive movements as the coöperative medical service, safety-first committees and committees on first aid, accident prevention, safety appliances, sick and accident relief, also fire drills and pre-

vention, are doing much to spread the gospel of good health. Some of these mill communities can rightfully boast of the most complete sanitary systems within the State.

A popular idea has been that the healthiest places to live in were the mountains and the country, but a recent exhaustive study made by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company seems to have discounted this theory by showing that the morbidity rate in mill towns was lower than among any other class of people in the entire State.

In the light of the above facts, is it surprising that a mill community with a population of several thousand claims the lowest *per capita* death rate in North Carolina?

Closely following the health work in importance is that of education, and in this important work the mills have followed the same high standard until there has developed a system of public schools, many of them the equal, both in equipment and type of work, of any in the State.

Many of these schools are in reality community centers, serving the entire community from the child in the kindergarten to the mother in the mothers' club, or the grandfather in the night school. Some of these schools are equipped with gymnasiums for the girls and women, also systems of baths, manual training, domestic science and music departments, all under trained, experienced leadership. They, indeed, constitute a great educational, recreational, moral and social agency. Many of their doors seem never to close and their influence seems unlimited.

The unaffected, cordial hospitality

and social atmosphere of the mill community makes its lasting impression upon the newcomer or visitor. Among no other class of people within our State does there exist the same cordial good fellowship and the willingness to sacrifice in order to relieve the distress of another.

Many of the cotton mill communities have well-equipped Y. M. and Y. W. C. A.'s. These associations are very popular and enroll a large percentage of the population in their membership. Others have community club houses where clubs of various kinds meet regularly. In these communities there may be found children's playgrounds, public parks and lakes for boating and bathing, and the usual recreation and amusement parks with athletic and baseball fields, each contributing its share to the community life.

Much effort has been expended in beautifying the mill communities by planting flowers and shrubbery under the direction of landscape architects. Prizes have been awarded for improvements and home beautifying. Experienced florists and gardeners have been employed in many places and splendid results have followed.

The moral tone of the mill community will compare most favorably with other sections. We believe that statistics will show a larger percentage of the population in attendance upon church services than in many of the neighboring communities. There is in most of the communities one or more resident pastors and usually several substantial church buildings. The churches are reaching large numbers of young people and inspiring them with high ideals.

We have tried conscientiously to present some phases of the welfare work of the cotton manufacturing industry within the State. Of course, there may be isolated cases where but

little has been accomplished, but they are, however, decidedly in the minority and, where such do occur, they are the exception rather than the rule.

The City on Guard for its Children

By Clarence H. MacDonald

Superintendent of Recreation, City of Raleigh

It has been said that our cities of the South are 20 years behind the times in the provision and care of our children in the form of public playgrounds and recreation. Can it be we do not appreciate the needs of our children as the cities of the North, East and West? I am thoroughly convinced that we do appreciate our most valuable asset but, in our wonderful civic strides and material growth, we have thrust the children into the background to exist as they may. However, as a native and one of the pioneer playground workers of the South, I wish to emphatically state that a wonderful awakening is taking place, and five years hence we will be but a lap behind the pace-setters in playground work, and when we receive our second wind will be an even competitor. At present there are but ten Southern cities, of which Raleigh is one, conducting year-round work.

Here in the South we are seriously handicapped in the promotion of public recreation on account of so few Southern cities having model systems which would act as a stimulus and inspiration to our other cities. If we intend to progress along the woefully needed line of playground work, we

must first educate the public and those in charge of our cities to see the real necessity of such work. In a council chamber of one of our largest Southern cities, I heard the leader of that city council state, and at which time I believe he was expressing the sentiment of his fellow members, "I didn't need playgrounds or anybody to supervise my play when I was a boy, and am against an appropriation for such a silly idea. If the kids want to play, let 'em play in the parks and own backyards." The parks in question contained nothing but grass and flowers—and if you can show me a red-blooded youngster who can enjoy himself watching grass and flowers grow, you have shown me a creature fit to be placed on exhibition.

A city with good business forethought will find the boy a most valuable asset so long as this asset is moulded into a usable product. But give the boy the streets and gutters for his playground, and he quickly becomes, not an asset, but an economic and civic loss,—a real liability.

The provision of public playgrounds by a city involves far more than its natural duty toward the child. If you please, a playground

from a municipal viewpoint is an investment—the profits of which can not be reckoned in cents and dollars, but by such products as healthier, happier, and better citizens of tomorrow—the mothers and fathers of the future.

Every progressive city has now come to realize that playgrounds are not a luxury, but one of the most indispensable factors in its civic make-up. It is obvious that if places for play and athletics are not provided, accidents and crime will result through street play. Many cities have had to decide between play and juvenile crime, and it was conclusive that money spent for playgrounds was a far more economic proposition. What it costs to convict and send one boy through a reformatory would handsomely equip a playground.

We are now living in an artificial age. We are at a period where the masses pay others to play and even exercise for them. In other words, a transition of active recreation to passive is taking place. Under this existing condition which applies to the city and town alike, we are most assuredly producing and rearing weaker children. If, then, we social workers are attempting to alleviate sickness, crime and anemia, among our children, we must consider the basic and only known remedy thus far—adequate facilities for exercise and play in our cities and communities.

One reason for our lack of quick development along the line of public recreation is that the term “playground” is badly misunderstood. In the words of De Groot, “It must be understood that the very inclusive term, ‘public playgrounds,’ stands

primarily for public recreation—a public recreation that has at one end the play of children and at the other end the relaxation of young men, young women and adults. A dangerous tendency lies in the over emphasis or even appreciation concerning adequate maintenance and administration after the grounds are acquired. Playgrounds acquired and operated without good business forethought and methods will turn out products no better than have been turned out by the street and alley playgrounds since the beginning.”

Those of us who have worked with boys of both North and South have with regret come to a definite conclusion based on actual tests, that the average boy of the South is physically weaker than his neighbor of the North. For example, we will take an average boy of Raleigh: if he were given a physical efficiency test with an average boy of New York City, you would likely find that the New York youngster, raised under conditions adverse to the growth of child life, could surpass him in muscular coördination. The reason is that the boy of New York has been under expert playground and physical directors since his first day in the public schools, and has naturally developed greater bodily usefulness through coördination. This, to my mind, is of vast significance and demands investigation and action by our educators and municipal authorities. An over-developed brain with a under-developed body will surely give one a risky vehicle with which to travel the roads of life!

It is with modesty that Raleigh claims the distinction of being the

only city in North Carolina conducting year-round playground and recreation centers. While we regret we have not as yet a model system and are in our infancy in playground work, we will rapidly grow with proper financial nourishment and prove to the State and South that Raleigh does appreciate the needs of its children. Our type of playgrounds suggest that the movement is vastly more significant than the common reference to see-saws and swings for little children. Here, the youngster learns to give and take in team games—also to be a good loser as well as winner. He learns, too, that he must respect the rights of others, and that the weaker boy has the same privileges as the stronger. The bully is eliminated and the gang spirit transformed into

team loyalty. What fighting done is now in the form of clean competition in athletics for the honor of the gang's respective playground. We are using too, one of our school buildings for a night recreation center. Here the working young men and women can come and enjoy themselves under wholesome conditions and supervision of the city. In short, it is but a proper utilization of our facilities for the health, happiness and contentment, of the boys, girls and youth, of our city.

If the cities of North Carolina in their progressiveness think that an expenditure of money for children's playgrounds is a luxury, we will surely have a sad awakening when the boy of to-day becomes the man of tomorrow in the Old North State!

Heredity as Related to Mental Deficiency

H. W. Chase, University of North Carolina

The student of social conditions needs clearly to recognize that heredity is just as real a fact in the mental world as in the physical. We inherit the quality of our brains just as we inherit the color of our eyes and the shape of our noses. People differ as much in inborn mental capacity as in physical features.

We Americans have shown a curious reluctance to admit in our social dealings this obvious fact of inherited mental differences. Our educational system, until recently, was built on the assumption that children were mentally alike and needed the same treatment. Our legal procedures too often follow the theory that all adults,

at least, are equally responsible for their deeds. We still tend to explain success or failure in life by hard work or laziness and to ignore differences in mental capacities.

We need to realize more fully that the individual is a product of the stock from which he comes, that his qualities depend on its qualities, just as truly as the quality of corn depends on the sort of seed from which it is grown. This fact is particularly important in thinking about and dealing with the mental defective. The problem which confronts here can never be solved so long as we confine our efforts to dealing with the individual; it can only be solved by

dealing with the bad stock that is back of the individual. To attempt to cope with the problem of mental defect by putting a few selected individuals in institutions, and stopping with that, is exactly on a par with throwing away some of the bad ears of corn that come from the poor seed, but saving the remainder of the bad ears to use for seed the next season. Any man who deals with the feeble-minded will tell you that he regards the temporary case of a few individuals in institutions as only a first step; social measures must be far more extended if widespread and permanent good is to result.

Many of you are familiar with the classic examples of the influence of family stock on individuals. There is the "Jukes" family, studied by Dugdale up to 1877. This family owned as its first known ancestor a mental defective called Max. The record of his descendants is a dreary one; mental defect, criminality, all sorts of immorality, disease, pauperism, illegitimacy occur again and again, and the family, up to 1877, had cost the State of New York over a million and a quarter of dollars. Estabrook, who brought the study up to 1915, finds that one-half of the whole group have been feeble-minded—a number which up to date has amounted to over six hundred. One hundred and thirty years ago there were five members of the family from whom all the subsequent evil and suffering have come. The problem should have been dealt with a century and a half ago; it is not being dealt with adequately even to-day; what will be the result a generation or two hence? How many more millions will it be necessary for the State to spend in prosecutions,

for relief, penal institutions and the like, just because this stock dwells within its borders, free for the most part to go and come, to marry and give in marriage, as it chooses? No State is without its burden of such stocks; Goddard's History of the Kallikak family in New Jersey parallels closely the records of the Jukes; and I have no doubt that the records at Kinston bear abundant testimony to their existence in our own State.

Such studies are proof enough of the part played by heredity in mental defect. The feeble-minded child is, for the most part, not a chance product, a black sheep in good ancestry; he is a member of a stock in which the tendency to mental defect always has existed and always will exist so long as the family is allowed to multiply itself unchecked.

I say for the most part, for it is true that there are cases of feeble-mindedness which occur in families of good stock, with no discoverable hereditary cause. But such cases are much fewer than it was formerly supposed. This statement may be briefly defended by evidence from competent sources.

Tredgold, who is one of the greatest authorities in the field, says: "In the investigation of individual cases the proportion in which some adverse condition of environment is alleged as the cause is very considerable; and bearing in mind that evidence of this kind is much easier to elicit than are details of the family history, it is not surprising that many former writers should have attributed great importance to such factors. At the beginning of my inquiries I was inclined to do so myself, and it was only when I found how frequently morbid inheri-

tance lay behind that I came to a different conclusion. I am far from denying that the environment, even in the presence of innate tendencies to defect, has no influence. What I wish to point out, however, is that mental defect is but rarely caused by injurious external factors acting alone, and that in an overwhelming proportion of cases the cause lies in the condition of the germ plasm. . . . It is quite clear, therefore, that there is now an overwhelming body of evidence from those qualified by experience to express an opinion on this matter, to the effect that in the great majority of cases of amentia the condition is due to innate or germinal causes, and that it is transmissible."

Goddard, in an elaborate study of 327 cases, has found that in 164 or 54 per cent., the condition is clearly due to heredity, and in 34, to 11.3 per cent., it is probably so. Thirty-seven other cases, or 12 per cent., were in families in which the stock was poor in other ways, showing in other individuals paralysis, epilepsy, insanity, etc. This means that in almost 80 per cent. of the cases studied, the stock from which the feeble-minded individuals sprung was of distinctly inferior quality.

Let us state the same fact in another way. Goddard has also shown that, of 144 matings in which both parents were mentally defective, there were 749 children. The mental condition of 482 of these children was known. Of this group only six were normal—and in these six cases there is doubt as to the real parentage. Probably without exception, the children of mentally defective parents will be themselves mentally defective.

Feeble-mindedness, then, is hereditary. But how does it behave in transmission? Is it possible to predict its occurrence in cases other than those in which both parents are feeble-minded? The question is not only interesting, but of the utmost social importance. There seems to be considerable evidence in favor of the following position:

First, mental defect seems, in spite of its complicated character, to behave in transmission from one generation to the next as a so-called "unit-character." It is, to be sure, a general condition of defect, but that general condition appears to be transmitted by the same laws that determine, for example, whether a pea shall be of a tall or a dwarf species, or what shall be the color of a person's eyes.

It depends, that is, on what has been called a single "determiner"—a single element present or not present in the cell from which the individual develops.

Second, mental defect is due to the absence of a specific determiner in the germ cell,—the absence of a determiner where presence means the development of normal mentality. In order for the individual to appear as feeble-minded, it is necessary that the determiner be absent from both the germ cells which unite to produce the individual. There are people who have developed from cells in one of which the determiner was present, while it was absent in the other. Such individuals are themselves practically of normal mentality, but they are none the less capable of transmitting the mental defect which is latent in themselves. If such an individual marries one similarly constituted, or

a feeble-minded individual, certain proportions of the children of such unions will be feeble-minded. The ratios are too complicated to work out in such a paper as this: the important point is that there is danger that an individual who is himself normal, but one side of whose family shows mental defect, may become the parent of mental defectives through marriage with a similar individual. If such an individual, on the other hand, marries one in whose family there is no taint, the defect will lie latent, and will continue so as long as such matings are continued. The importance of all this is that here is a class of people who are themselves normal, but of tainted families. The marriages of such people are beyond the control of legislation; they can only be dealt with through general public education on this important question.

It is because of facts like these that we are placing the emphasis on the social aspects of the problem of mental defect. Of course the mentally defective individual should be trained as much as possible, for his own welfare and happiness. But we must remember that no amount of education can make a normal individual out of one who was born a mental defective. He has no business in the public school, for such children are usually morally unstable as well as mentally defective. Investigators have shown that of the inmates of reformatories and other institutions for delinquents, not far from 50 per cent. on the average are such defectives. Such a child easily gets into trouble, and may commit the greatest crimes against society. And the stock is numerous. The assertion may be ventured that, from what is known as

to the frequency of mental defect in other areas, there are to-day not less than 10,000 mental defectives in North Carolina. I am of course excluding the insane, who belong in another category. The number of individuals so afflicted is on the increase, for the high death rate in this class of the population is more than made up for by the fact that it is usually very prolific.

This number may seem surprisingly large. This is due to the fact that the higher grades of mental defect are often not recognized as such by the casual observer. For such high grade defectives the term "moron" is now used. Psychologically, a moron is an individual who in intelligence never develops beyond the level of a child of from 8 to 12 years. It is precisely this higher class of mental defectives which is most dangerous to society.

The longer we hesitate to deal with such stock, the greater the trouble we are laying up for future generations. Think of the suffering and sin that might have been spared had the ancestor of the Jukes, or the feeble-minded girl who founded the bad branch of the Kallikak family, been permanently out of harm's way.

Thus the fact that mental defect is largely hereditary is both a challenge to effort and a cause for hope. It is a challenge to effort; for it is clear that society will never deal with the matter adequately until we come to realize that the attempt to make the best of the feeble-minded individual, once he is born, is only a superficial attack on the matter; the real problem is to prevent his being born at all. It is a cause for hope, for if mental defect appeared in all sorts

of families, was caused by accidents and environmental conditions as frequently as some people think, it would never be possible adequately to control its incidence. But because for the most part it does occur in a certain sort of stock, we know where to

strike in working for its prevention. The essential point, then, which I have tried to bring out is, that feeble-mindedness is not a matter of individual cases merely; it is a matter of bad stock.

THE CONQUERORS

Methought that I saw in a vision a man who had striven and won.
 He was crowned with the crown of a victor, while the world looked kindly on.
 For the world, it loveth a hero and seldom sayeth him nay,
 He was strong with the strength that had carried all obstacles out of his way;
 He was brave: What others had shrunk from he faced and did not quail;
 He was proud with a sense of a power that was never known to fail;
 And the world, that loveth a hero, laid its richest gifts at his feet—
 All things for the valiant victor who suffereth no defeat!

Then, again I saw in my vision a man who had striven and lost.
 For years he had fought unyielding, yet he counted not the cost;
 For this man, too, was a hero, and he took the degree of Fate
 As a brave man taketh his portion who hath fought where the odds are great.
 No palm of a valiant victor, no kingly crown for him,
 For the world, that loveth a hero, hath eyes that are wondrous dim.
 But a goddess stooped and touched him; and I saw, as again she rose,
 He was wise with the wonderful wisdom that sees and feels and knows,
 With a heart so touched with sorrow that it knew of the world's great pain
 And a soul that had braved such dangers that no fears to him remain.
 And I said, "Not all to the victor, to him be the honor meet
 But never be less to the hero who conquereth in defeat."

—*The American Friend.*

National Conference of Charities and Correction

The great annual gathering, June 6-13, 1917, at Pittsburg, Pa., of CHARITY WORKERS, church workers, teachers with the social viewpoint, volunteers, recreationists, public spirited citizens, who want to improve their communities.

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Social Service Quarterly

ISSUED BY THE
NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE FOR SOCIAL SERVICE

Vol. V.

RALEIGH, N. C., APRIL-OCTOBER, 1917

No. 2-4



ROLAND F. BEASLEY

Commissioner of Public Welfare for North Carolina
Appointed by the Board of Charities and
Public Welfare, September, 1917

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Vol. V

RALEIGH, N. C., APRIL-OCTOBER, 1917

No. 2-4

EDITORIAL

The Quarterly carries a greeting to the friends old and new of the Social Service Conference.

This issue is dated April-October and must take the place in your files of three quarterly issues. On account of the change of officers and delay in securing the mailing list, it was impossible to get out the separate numbers. The earnest efforts of a few staunch friends and supporters of the Conference have tided it over a critical period, and have made it possible to continue the publication of *The Quarterly* and the work of the organization.

Believing that the Conference has a real mission to carry out, and that it should become a vital force in the life of the social organism of the State, the officers call upon all social workers both as individuals and as heads of organizations to rally round the Conference and help to make of it a State clearing-house for social activities.

The success of the legislative program which the Conference undertook early last fall and carried through to completion in the halls of

the State legislature gave the Conference recognition as one of the powerful factors in moulding the public opinion of the day. The social legislation for which the 1917 session of the legislature is now famous was not thought out in a moment, but was due in no small measure to the work of the Conference quietly and perseveringly carried on for previous months and, in some cases, years.

This success should encourage us to face fresh difficulties and to attack new problems in the rapidly changing social order.

The Executive Committee recognizes the actual work of the Conference to be divided into four parts—rather that the purpose of the Conference, which is all one, can be accomplished through four agencies. In all of these the sympathetic interest and financial support of every member is solicited.

First. Planning and putting through an annual meeting which shall be a gathering-in of all the social and welfare workers of our local and special philanthropic bodies.

How can we each know what the other is doing unless we get together at least once a year and talk over our plans and our accomplishments? There never was greater need than in this year of such a get-to-gether meeting. Plans for the date and place of the 1918 meeting are under consideration. Several speakers of note will be brought from a distance to give inspiration along new lines, but for the most part the Conference will be "built close to the ground," as President W. T. Cross advises. The membership of the Conference can materially help to make this meeting a practical success by sending suggestions to the Secretary at once as to topics to be discussed and names of speakers, especially local ones, who may have something constructive to add to some part of the program. Watch the next *Quarterly* for program for the annual meeting to be held early in the new year.

Second. The Board recognizes *The Quarterly* as its mouthpiece and spokesman between meetings, and means to make it a practical guide for all social workers. To this end, several new departments have been inaugurated. One of these, the Book Table aims to suggest new and sometimes old books for the study of methods and means of social service. While the needs of the small library have been kept in mind in the selection of the books reviewed, the purpose uppermost has been that of suggestions for individual and group study. Miss Mary B. Palmer, of the Carnegie Library in Charlotte, has kindly added to her many duties the editing of our Book Table, and she

will be glad to hear from any of our readers who are interested in this feature.

Because the organized charity association is the approved organization for meeting the ever-present problems of poverty, degeneracy, unemployment, vagrancy and kindred social ills, we purpose to give special consideration to the work of these organizations. Mr. W. T. Woodward, of the Charlotte Associated Charities, has undertaken to edit this department and will keep us abreast of the work of Associated Charities.

News items of social activities and progress will be gathered together in one column, and should serve to stimulate club presidents, chairmen and volunteers to contribute interesting bits of information which come under their eye.

Third. The Conference recognizes a special field of service in co-operation with the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare. As the Conference did its part toward getting the enlarged Board with its enlarged powers appointed, so we will continue active interest along this line, and will always give space to matters which the Board members or Mr. Beasley bring to the attention of our readers.

Fourth. The Board appreciates the necessity of permanency in the office of the Secretary-Treasurer, and intends to provide for the work of this office to be done regularly and efficiently.

Keep the annual meeting in mind, and send us suggestions for topics and speakers for the program.

SOCIAL SERVICE STUDIES AT UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

An interesting and hopeful sign of the times is the formation of a study group at Union Theological Seminary called the Society of Social Inquiry. The interest of these young men in this practical topic is said to have grown out of a course of lectures by a member of the faculty on "The Social Teachings of Jesus." The club is entirely voluntary both in its researches and in its activities, and is composed of some of the most earnest students. We were fortunate in getting an account of this organization from one of its members. If a Society of Social Inquiry is possible at Union, why not at other seats of learning? *The Quarterly* would like to know of many groups of young men and women devoting some of their time of training to a consideration of this field of service for which trained workers are imperatively demanded.

Because Prison Reform is a live topic today with us both in theory and in practice, we are glad to publish a timely article by such an authority as Doctor Whitin.

There is no more enthusiastic champion of the cause of the man behind the bars than our own Governor Bickett. It was largely due to his support that the advocates of prison reform were able to get their splendid program through the General Assembly. It is gratifying to know that this interest is practical as well, and that he has not hesitated to order a thorough investigation of the record of each inmate of the state prison.

As a result of this investigation, pardons were granted in September to 22 prisoners serving long sentences—so long that their fate had been forgotten by their friends and relatives. One man committed for an offense when he was 13 years old comes out to the light of day having spent more years in prison than in freedom. It ought to bring comfort to every unfortunate to know that there is one North Carolinian who is mindful of his fate.

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORK

Echoes From the Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh

The machinery of the Conference was thoroughly overhauled and a new constitution written. Its very name, National Conference of Charities and Corrections, under which it has operated for over four decades, was changed to National Conference of Social Work.

Over 4,300 delegates were registered.

Nearly 50 sessions were held during the week.

The causes of poverty had more searching criticism given them than ever before.

A section meeting on negro migration northward required a second period for discussion, and the problem of the negro got more recognition than ever before.

Thomas Mott Osborne conducted a series of meetings which resulted in radical criticism of existing prison methods.

"The Conquest of Poverty" was

the subject of the President's address.

Rural community life and problems, for the first time, got an appreciable footing in the transactions of this national gathering.

Kansas City will entertain the 1918 Conference in June.

THE VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

That the South is to have a training school for social workers is an announcement that has been greeted with enthusiasm by the friends of social service.

This school is located at Richmond, Virginia, and Henry H. Hibbs, Jr., Ph.D., is the director. The school will train both social workers and public health nurses—a natural grouping. In the preliminary announcement we read: "The social worker, like the health nurse, needs to learn of the movements for the prevention of disease, and to see through the nurse's eyes the part which disease plays in the demoralization of family and community life. And the public health nurse must gain from the social worker a knowledge of the treatment of illness in families where there is poverty and social and economic demoralization as well as sickness. Some conception of the principles and methods of constructive social service as applied to the rehabilitation of destitute families is necessary to the work of the visiting nurse. The association in the school, therefore, of social workers and nurses-in-training will be a distinct advantage."

We will watch with interest the work of this new school, which starts on its career of usefulness with the best wishes of the members of our State Conference.

MR. ROLAND F. BEASLEY

The new Board of Charities and Public Welfare had no easy task before it in the selection of the man to charge with the duties of Commissioner of Public Welfare. This office is so new that it was useless to look for any one who had held exactly this position in other states. Much of the time and attention of the members was taken up during the summer months in looking for just the right man for our new commissioner. In Mr. Roland F. Beasley, of Monroe, the qualifications were found which would make just the officer we were needing. Mr. Beasley's active participation in the state assembly and his firm attitude on the side of progress and justice in all social legislation have stamped him as a safe and sane leader of public thought as well as an able and enlightened executive.

Mr. Beasley takes up his new duties with the assurance of the support and co-operation of the Conference. One of the most helpful things he could have done, Mr. Beasley thought of first, and that was the publishing in convenient pamphlet form of the new laws under which the present Board works. This leaflet can be had at cost by every interested student of the laws of the State. It is called "Laws and Facts Relating to the Work of the State Board of

Charities and Public Welfare." Write to Miss Daisy Denson, Raleigh, for it. For, of course, Miss Denson is still the Secretary and is faithful now, as through many trying years of service, to the Board of Charities.

Watch for the first county to appoint a County Commissioner of Public Welfare. Every county needs one just as much as it needs a health officer. The new laws authorize the employment of such an officer in each State, after a certificate of qualification has been obtained from the State Board. Two counties are at work forming their Boards—Forsyth and Vance. Who next?

SEVENTEEN LICENSED ORPHANAGES IN OUR STATE

One of the important duties of the Board of Charities and Public Welfare is the licensing of child-caring institutions. It should mean much to a generous public to realize that no man or woman has the right in this State to solicit funds for an orphanage or children's home without being able to show the card authorizing him as agent of a licensed institution.

CHILD-CARING INSTITUTIONS LICENSED TO DATE

In addition to child-caring Institutions and societies listed below others have made application and will be licensed at the next Board meeting, no objection appearing.

- 1—North Carolina Children's Home Society, Greensboro.
- 2.—Methodist Orphanage, Raleigh.
- 3.—Methodist Protestant Children's Home, High Point.

4.—Thompson Orphanage and Training School, Charlotte.

5—Catholic Orphanage, Nazareth (near Raleigh).

6—Christian Orphanage, Elon College.

7—Children's Home, Methodist Western Conference, Winston-Salem.

8—Nazareth Orphans' Home, Crescent.

9—Odd Fellows' Orphan Home, Goldsboro.

10—Colored Orphan Home, Winston-Salem.

11—The Thomasville Baptist Orphanage, Thomasville.

12—Presbyterian Orphans' Home, Barium Springs.

13—St. Ann's Orphanage, Belmont.

14—Mountain Orphanage, Balfour.

15—Eliada Orphanage, Asheville.

16—The Oxford Orphan. Asylum, Oxford.

17—The Oxford Orphan Asylum for Colored Children, Oxford.

The Southern Sociological Congress held its annual meeting within our State—at Blue Ridge—early in August. A number of representative North Carolinians attended the three days' session and took part on the program. At the business meeting, a Board of Governors was elected to go over the organization in detail and find ways to put it on a firm footing and to direct its future policies. A list of the prominent citizens who consented to serve in this capacity gives proof that the Congress is in safe hands. They are

James H. Dillard, J. A. C. Chandler, J. C. Logan, W. D. Weatherford, and Gilbert T. Stephenson.

At Blue Ridge, also, a unique meeting was held in the interests of law and order, with special reference to race relations, and mob violence. A carefully selected group of 50 men and women were called together from a large area to be the guests of Robert Lee Hall at this Conference. The problem was approached from various angles; and every point of view, except that of narrow-minded prejudice, was presented by the speakers, nearly every one of whom was a specialist in his particular field. The complete account of this first conference on Race Relations will be a valuable part of the history of this subject which some day may cease to be a side issue, and become of first-rate importance, not only to the South, but to the whole nation. Dr. E. C. Branson, of the University faculty, was made chairman of a

committee on resolutions. These resolutions or the printed proceedings may be obtained by application to the Secretary of this Conference. The spirit of the whole Conference is summed up in the final resolution: "We pledge to each other and to the people of both white and black races in the South our utmost endeavor to allay hurtful race prejudice, to promote mutual understanding, sympathy and good-will, to procure economic justice and in particular to condemn and oppose all forms of violence."

The Eighth Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Forestry Association will be held in Wilmington on Friday, January 25. Conservation of our forests through wise use is the motto of this Association, and this principle, so essential at the present time, will form the basis of the discussions. For program and details address J. S. Holmes, Sec., Chapel Hill, N. C.

THE DAY OF IMPORTUNITY IS OUR DAY OF OPPORTUNITY

We have begun the preparation for it none too soon. The Conference for Social Service has been blazing a path over which the broader highway is coming. It has been an open forum where forward-looking men and women have freely discussed the neglected places in our life. This work should have begun a generation ago. But a brave beginning has been made. Our last legislature enlarged the scope of the Board of Charities

into the Board of Charities and Public Welfare, with a board that has power to act. With the election of Mr. R. F. Beasley as Commissioner of Public Welfare, the deck is being cleared for action. All this should add interest and give definiteness to our Conference for Social Service. It can be the clearing house for the various forms of welfare work, or the drawing of the skirmish lines preparatory to the great drive against the

old and new enemies of our daily life.

But before far-seeing policies can be agreed upon, unusual suffering appeals for help in every community. This writer is in position to hear the cry of the widow and the orphan especially. Some are too dumb to cry. Many who ran an even race with want a while ago, now find food and fuel beyond their reach. These cannot wait. The winter winds are

blowing. Communities must organize somehow and give help.

This call from me as President of the Conference may not add weight to the appeal, but one look at the pale uplifted hands is convincing proof that the need and the opportunity have met. This is the challenge at our doors.

M. L. KESLER.

THE ENLARGED SPHERE OF THE BOARD OF CHARITIES AND PUBLIC WELFARE

If an outsider should come to North Carolina today to investigate the laws relating to penal and charitable institutions and to social legislation generally, he would doubtless be much surprised to find that upon the whole our laws are progressive and up-to-date, especially since the pronounced forward step of the General Assembly of 1917. The practical and efficient administration of the laws is now the task before us.

The mandate of the Constitution to the legislature to "appoint and define the duties of a Board of Public Charities, to whom shall be intrusted the supervision of all charitable and penal State institutions, and who shall annually report to the Governor upon their condition, with suggestions of their improvement," was carried out by the appointment of such Board, but little financial support was ever given it, and consequently its power of usefulness kept in

abeyance. Many useful and noble men gave their labor to the cause for years free, both as members of the Board and otherwise. The late Capt. C. B. Denson served many years as Secretary of the Board and did invaluable service in laying the foundations of the work which we are now trying to build upon. The present Chairman, W. A. Blair, became a member of the Board in 1891, and since 1904 has been Chairman, giving at all times wise, conservative and faithful service.

Seeing that the time had come to enlarge the scope and usefulness of the Board by giving it more power and financial support, The State Conference for Social Conference and the State Board of Public Charities appointed sub-committees to agree upon desired legislation, and the legislature of 1917, approving their position, passed the present law, which increases the membership to seven, pro-

vides for a Commissioner of Public Welfare under the Board, and increases its scope to embrace the general social welfare and activities of the State. It is now "The State Board of Charities and Public Welfare," and its members and the date of expiration of their terms are as follows: Terms expire April, 1923, W. A. Blair, Winston-Salem; A. W. McAlister, Greensboro. Terms expire April, 1921, Carey J. Hunter, Raleigh; Mrs. Walter F. Woodward, Wilson. Terms expire April, 1919, Rev. M. L. Kesler, Thomasville; Mrs. Thomas W. Lingle, Chapel Hill; Mr. J. A. McAulay, Mt. Gilead. At the first meeting the Board elected Mr. Blair, Chairman; Mr. Hunter, Vice-Chairman, and continued Miss Daisy Denson as Secretary.

Realizing that the enlarged success of the work would depend much upon the ability of the Commissioner of Public Welfare, the Board carefully considered the selection of this officer. After a thorough investigation from all angles, they decided to ask Mr. R. F. Beasley, of Monroe, to take this position. Mr. Beasley had long been interested in social progress, had written and spoken much on its various topics, and, as a member of the legislature of 1917, had been most energetic in securing modern legislation. Mr. Beasley accepted the trust and began his work on October 1st. At the request of the Board he will first spend several weeks in special studies of the work in this and other states, and the Board hopes to soon lay out a fairly definite program of useful and constructive work along the various lines

of its activities. A brief synopsis of the duties with which the Board of Charities and Public Welfare is charged may be given as follows:

To investigate and supervise the whole system of charitable and penal institutions of the State and recommend needed improvement.

To study the subject of non-employment, poverty, vagrancy, housing conditions, public amusement, divorce, etc., and to make recommendations to the legislature for proper control and preventive legislation.

To study and promote the welfare of dependent and delinquent children and supervise the placing of the same, and to investigate, license and report on all private institutions caring for children.

To issue bulletins and make general publicity of the findings and investigations.

To assist and direct in the organization of County Boards of Welfare with functions similar to those of the State Board, with a paid County Superintendent of Public Welfare.

To attend conventions and organizations dealing with the subjects entrusted to its charge calculated to secure helpful publicity and leadership.

To give special attention to the causes of insanity and to gather information which may be helpful to the legislature on this and kindred subjects.

To inspect jails, county homes, chain gangs, prisons of all kinds, and require reports of condition and treatment of inmates.

This brief outline will serve to show the important field of operation

for the Board's work. It is a large order for the men and women of the Board who are serving without pay and for no other reward than that of being able to help where great help is needed, and in a field where, though our State has lagged too much, it is yet to be one of the leading and progressive members of the Union. The Board is alive to the requirements of a new day and the new obligations imposed by the growing complexity of modern social conditions.

THE SOCIETY OF SOCIAL INQUIRY
Union Theological Seminary
Richmond, Va.

The Society of Social Inquiry is the name of an interesting organization recently formed by the students of Union Theological Seminary at Richmond, Va., for the study of social service in its Christian aspects. As stated in the constitution, the object of this society is "To encourage among its members a thorough study of and zeal for the promotion of Christian Sociology in the South, and to collect and disseminate correct knowledge pertaining to the advancement of the Kingdom of God through a betterment of social conditions."

This organization has as its officers, a President, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Regular Secretary and Treasurer. The constitution plans a field organization later, this organization to have its own officers and to keep in touch with the local organization through the local Corresponding Secretary. In this way

the society expects to keep in touch with what is going on in the South, and to be ready to give out valuable information as to methods and ideas of Christian social service.

The society meets for one hour every second and fourth Thursday night of the month. The program for one term included the discussion of the following subjects: "Amusements and Recreations"; Conditions Among the Colored People"; Home Mission Work From a Social Standpoint"; "Charities"; "The Institutional Church"; "The Social Problem of the County Church"; "The Attitude of the Working People Toward the Church"; and "The Attitude of the Church Toward the Working People."

The entire program for each evening is given into the hands of the one member to whom the subject is assigned. The usual method of procedure is to read a paper on the subject for the first half of the meeting, and then to open the meeting for discussion, each member contributing his quota of knowledge to the subject. Papers read in the meetings, along with other information collected are filed by the Secretary for permanent use.

After adopting a constitution and by-laws, the first meeting was given to the compilation of a bibliography on the general field of study with which the society was to deal. Nothing can be more valuable than getting the right viewpoint in this matter, and it was hard to say just which were the best books. Out of a list of 50 or more the following have been found helpful and are recommended: "The Next Great Awakening," by Josiah

Strong; "The Social Task of Christianity," by S. Z. Batten; "Christianity and the Social Crisis," by Rauschenbusch; "Christianizing the Social Order", by Rauschenbusch; "The Church and Social Reforms", by J. R. Howerton; "The Peril and Preservation of the Home", by Jacob Riis; "Christ in the Social Order", by W. M. Clow; "The Working Man and the Social Prob-

lem", by Charles Stelzle; "Sin and Society", by E. A. Ross; "Moral Sanitation", by E. R. Groves; "A Year Book of the Church and Social Service", by H. F. Ward; "Christianizing Community Life", by Ward and Edwards. Other information will be gladly furnished to those desiring it.

ROSWELL C. LONG.

THE PRISON MOVEMENT

A Survey of Progress during 1916, by E. STAGG WHITIN, Ph.D.

Chairman Executive Com. Nat. Com. on Prisons

The prison movement during the year 1916 has passed through a period of virulent attack and is now at the point where constructive and scientific methods in our prisons are not only possible but demanded by the public.

A survey of the more marked developments is fitting at this time and will point to the greater accomplishment which the next few years will surely see.

The year 1915 saw the introduction of the Mutual Welfare System into Sing Sing Prison, a fuller development of the system instituted in Auburn Prison the year previously, and which was the logical outgrowth of the relationships established by Thomas Mott Osborne with the inmates of that institution during his week of voluntary imprisonment.

This present year has seen the defence of the Mutual Welfare System in the case of *People vs. Thomas*

Mott Osborne, White Plains, N. Y. The attack on Mr. Osborne, instigated by those opposed to the new prison system, was held by the National Committee on Prisons as an attack on the whole prison reform movement, and defended as such, the complete vindication of Mr. Osborne and his reinstatement as Warden at Sing Sing firmly establishing the fundamental principles of the new system.

The spirit engendered in the inmates of Sing Sing Prison by the Mutual Welfare System and their willingness to help bring about the real reform of the institution will contribute greatly towards the success of the undertaking just started to develop at Sing Sing a receiving station for the prisoners of New York State. The idea that Sing Sing should be a receiving station was first promulgated by the New York State Commission on Prison Reform in its preliminary report in 1914. The

project passed through a period of discussion and was made definite by the legislature of 1916, which also made provision for a new Sing Sing Prison on a farm acreage. Through the instrumentality of the National Committee on Prisons the work has been guaranteed to the State of New York for a period of five years, and a beginning already made. A psychiatrist is established at Sing Sing and the medical department will shortly be equipped so that it will be possible to examine every admission to the institution in the effort to determine the causes which led to the commission of crime and the methods which will promote rehabilitation.

A study of drug and drink addictions and methods of treatment has been made by the Social Hygiene Committee of the National Committee on Prisons and will make available for the receiving station, and in fact for all penal institutions, valuable information as to the best methods for the successful treatment of such addictions.

The project of the receiving station includes the idea of industrial training for the inmates. A survey of industrial and educational conditions in Sing Sing has been made by industrial education experts from Teachers' College, Columbia University, and a plan outlined for the development of a trade-school system in Sing Sing. The Coöperation of President Finley of the New York State Department of Education has been secured in this undertaking, and a final scheme of organization is being prepared by Doctor Arthur Dean,

Industrial Education Expert of the Department.

Sing Sing, as the receiving station idea develops, will thus become a laboratory where the every-day life of the inmates will be under observation from which they will be distributed to other institutions where there individual needs can be met. It is hoped that all can return to Sing Sing before the expiration of their sentence and from there receive a guarantee of their fitness for outside community life before discharge.

The full development of the receiving station system must wait upon the enactment of an Indeterminate Sentence Law which will make discharge of inmates dependent upon "cure." A step towards the enactment of such a law was made by the legislature of 1915, which applied it to cities of the first class in New York State. This year has seen the adoption of the Indeterminate Sentence Law in New York City and the appointment by Mayor Mitchell of a Parole Commission to carry out the provisions of the law.

A further development during 1916 has been the first attempt to meet the problem of the ex-prisoners on a basis scientific rather than charitable. An Employment Bureau has been established by the National Committee on Prisons which is working in coöperation with the receiving station to place ex-prisoners in jobs for which they are fitted and to draw around them those social, industrial and religious influences which will help them to protect themselves during the period of their readjustment to society.

The training of those who can carry on the prison work has also been a feature of this year's progress. During the year courses in Practical Penal Problems have been given at Columbia University outlining both the broad approach to the prison problems and the special problems which confront the administrator, the official of the parole board, or the interested citizen in dealing with the individual prisoner or ex-prisoner.

In brief, the year 1916 has seen the application of scientific methods to the prison problem, the scientific training of prison workers, and the first effort to meet the problem of the ex-prisoner on a scientific and practical basis. Next year should see, not only the further development of the work, but a vigorous campaign to carry the new system to every prison in the United States.

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH WILL PUBLISH FINDINGS IN REGARD TO PRISONS AND CAMPS

One of the most important provisions of the State's laws is that which is numbered Section X, under Chapter 286: "The Board of Directors of the State Prison and the State Board of Health shall have the same supervision of all jails, county camps, and any other places of confinement of county or city prisoners in regard to method of construction, sanitation, and hygienic care, as they have over the State Prison."

In the carrying out of this provision the Board of Health authorizes this statement:

"To know actual prison conditions

as they exist in North Carolina, and in compliance with the State prison law, the executive staff of the State Board of Health is making a complete survey of all convict camps and jails in the State. It is the plan of the Board to publish in booklet form, early next year, the findings of the survey which will be made by personal inspections, photographs, and gradings by use of the score card system.

"The examination particularly takes note of the observance or lack of observance of the sanitary rules and regulations prepared by the State Board of Health, in compliance with the law, for the sanitary management of jails and prison camps. These have to do mainly with the prisoners' health and welfare—precautions against vermin, ventilation and floor space, water supply, sewage disposal, furniture and recreation, clothing, bathing, beds, and flies and mosquitoes.

"The booklet dealing with prison conditions in North Carolina that will be published not later than March 1918, will contain actual photographs of conditions found through the surveys. Favorable as well as unfavorable conditions will be shown. In other words, the public is going to know, as they have the right, something definite and true of the conditions that exist behind prison walls in North Carolina."

Remember the "man behind the bars" at Christmas time, and send some of the good cheer from your Yule log to the nearest county camp.

ORGANIZED CHRISTIAN CHARITY

Edited by W. T. WOODWARD, Charlotte

Organized charity work, in the modern sense of the term, first made its appearance in America in the year 1877, in Buffalo, N. Y. With "Coöperation" as its watchword, organized charity has come to occupy a most necessary and valuable place in helping to solve our social problems. Its uninformed critics have been wont to state that it was heartless because it placed a higher value on constructive service than on mere material relief; because it did not comply with every impassioned cry for food, money, etc., by giving in every case just what was asked for; because it tempered sentiment with reason and justice to all concerned.

Let us see if systematic, persistent planning for the eradication of the causes of misery and need, based on a thorough knowledge of family conditions, past and present, can properly be termed heartless. When modern systems of finance were first applied to church work, many pious critics shook their heads gravely at the intrusion of business into the field of religion. Those of us who have had any experience with modern methods of business in connection with our church work, know only too well what a stimulus they have brought to it. Organized, systematic planning on business principles for the winning of a sinful world for Christ, is the order of the day. These same principles applied to charity work give us what is known as organized

charity. It is quite evident that a thorough knowledge of the family conditions is absolutely essential before the cause of the untoward conditions can be removed. This finding out of facts, commonly called an investigation, is nothing more than getting acquainted.

Organized charity is the child of Christianity; but the church in many cases has become so engrossed in her evangelistic work that the sociological side has almost entirely been overlooked. In looking at Christ's instructions to his disciples as to the care of their charges, we find that is practically impossible to draw a line of cleavage between the spiritual and material.

Furthermore, the church early recognized the need for organized charity work, as is shown in Acts 6:1-3: "And in those days when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, "It is not reason that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Wherefore Brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost, and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business." Note the efficacy of this plan.

We believe that the present day church must get back to the wise plan

of the primitive church—back to her sociological task; and when this is done, the mightiest force in the Universe will have been harnessed for the gigantic work in hand.

Taking it for granted that sin is the great underlying cause of distress, the immediate cause of misery might, in general, be comprehended under the following heads:

1. Ignorance and consequent inefficiency.
2. Disease and accidents.
3. Delinquency.
4. Unjust or inadequate laws.

Improvvidence, which is such a great cause of misery, might properly be placed under the head of ignorance.

These are some of the causes organized charity undertakes to remove. The stimulus in every case is Christianity, although it may be said with shame, that often the credit is not placed where it belongs. True charity can never flow from anything less holy than the well-springs of Christianity, in imitation of the Christ-Man, who "went about doing good."

As a concrete example of what is meant by "constructive work," and showing the effect of close coöperation, the following true story is given:

The Mayfield family (fictitious name used) was reported to an associated charities by a Sunday school teacher early in 19—. Father found to be weak-minded and a drunkard; mother about to be confined; eldest child feeble-minded; several others, all under-sized. Family was living in an unwholesome neighborhood in a small house.

Plan: To get advice and other aid

from relatives; to move the family into a respectable neighborhood; to strengthen church connections; to get the father employment; the mother proper care at home and to teach her to sew and keep a good home; to get the eldest child into the Caswell Training School at Kinston and keep the other children in school; in short, to restore normal family life.

Methods: In about 18 months this plan was largely carried out through the close coöperation of the Sunday school teacher, the pastor of the church of which the man was a member, a prominent manufacturer, a hospital, the Caswell Training School, the truant officer, the city tax collector, the public schools, several physicians, a visiting nurse, a Missionary society, and various individuals whose interest in the family the Associated Charities workers secured. No aid could be had from relatives.

Results: The father's habits were decidedly improved through his being helped to keep busy and by enlisting the friendly interest, and at times the material assistance, of his pastor and fellow church members. Very little food, fuel and clothing were needed from outside sources. Necessary re-adjustments were made, thus putting the father more nearly in a position to carry his natural responsibilities. Friendly advice and help in planning will continue to be needed, as weak-mindedness can never be cured. Nevertheless, the family life was restored almost to normal.

Reason: This present improved condition is the result of an intimate knowledge of the real conditions and

needs of the family on the part of the Associated Charities workers; the making of an adequate plan and carrying it out through the close co-operation of individuals and organizations capable of lending a hand. These results could not have been obtained by inexperienced, untrained workers. The Associated Charities supplied just what was needed, *viz.*, the personal service of its workers who were capable of making an able plan and seeing that it was carried out. Some expenditure of the society's funds went for food, etc., but the largest entry reads, "Salaries of Workers in Homes." Let this story answer the question, "Does it pay?"

That beloved social prophet, Jacob Riis, now deceased, once said: "It has often seemed to me that the function of present-day organized charity—and I mean the term to embrace all that we now call betterment work—is twofold: on the one hand it is, with its army of irresistible facts, helping turn the church from the barren discussion of dogmatic differences to face the real needs of the brother; on the other, it is guiding the old threat into the safe and helpful ways of service, and giving us, for a socialistic, a social programme. Nor is there need of fear that in the change the personal touch that counts so much will be lost. The "scientific" charity is not cold; it is warm and human. If it were not so, it would have no power to appeal to the religious impulse. It is "organized love," and it is effective; it does not mischance hinder where it sought to help."

JOTTINGS CONCERNING CHARITY ORGANIZATIONS OF NORTH CAROLINA

The editor of this page takes this opportunity to invite executives of charity organizations throughout the State to send to his office, Room 1, City Auditorium, Charlotte, N. C., short items concerning their work, particularly outlines of new plans which have worked well. He is desirous of having suggestions concerning topics which readers of *The Quarterly* would like to see discussed in the Charity Organization section. He takes pleasure in urging all secretaries to subscribe to *The Quarterly*. It is not published for profit, but simply as the official organ of the North Carolina Conference for Social Service, whose sole aim is to further social work in our State.

Perhaps few of the social workers of the State know that there are about 30 charity organization societies carrying on their beneficent work in North Carolina. Five of these are of standard rank; *i.e.*, they employ at least one full-time paid worker; are signers of the Transportation Agreement, the "Golden Rule" of charitable transportation which prevents "passing on"; keep adequate records of all families dealt with and put the emphasis on helpful, intelligent service, rather than on material relief-giving, the latter being only an incidental feature of the work. These five societies are located in Asheville, Charlotte, Goldsboro, Greensboro and Winston-Salem.

Among the cities and towns which are about to organize their charitable

efforts on a modern basis are Henderson and Statesville. We welcome them to the sisterhood and trust that they may see their way clear to form standard societies.

The Associated Charities of Raleigh is one of the few organizations in the State to employ a colored community nurse. Her annual report, recently issued, indicates that she is doing excellent work.

Wilmington reports that their Associated Charities is about to be reorganized. The position of Superintendent of Public Welfare is to be created. We have not been advised of the exact nature of his duties.

The Charity Organization Society of Goldsboro, one of our youngest societies, is coöperating with the Chamber of Commerce in a clean-up campaign. Their slogan is, "If each before his own door swept, the village would be clean," a good motto for us all.

ACTIVITIES OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

Mrs. J. S. Williams, of Asheville, the retiring chairman of the Social Service department of the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs reported the following list of activities in which the members of local clubs engaged during last year:

Jails visited and literature distributed.

Christmas cheer provided for inmates of County Home.

Coöperation with county authorities in providing Moonlight Schools.

Baby bags provided for infants to be used by nurses of the Associated Charities.

Committee visited and cheered many shut-ins.

Christmas baskets and stockings sent to the needy.

Committee on prevention of cruelty to animals educating children to do permanent good.

Splendid aid given to Belgian Relief Committee.

Hospital supplies sent to Europe.

Coöperation with County Board of Health in examination of school children.

Aid in improvement of conditions at County Home.

Attended trial of boys.

Aid given to provide home for an infant born in jail.

Created sentiment for cleanliness in public buildings.

More privacy for women prisoners.

Observation of Baby Week.

Sale of Red Cross Seals.

Provided rest room for women and children.

Established school for grown illiterates.

Assistance given in organizing women's club for negro women.

Medical attention and supplies given to the needy.

Nurses, both white and colored, supported in doing settlement work.

Attended the sick.

Pleasure club among mill girls.

Community Christmas trees.

Children's school gardens.

Working for parks and interesting the men's clubs in the work.

Better babies contests.

Observed health day.

Hospital bill paid for charity patient.

Decision to buy motion picture machine for graded school.

Influence exerted for establishment of industrial school for girls.

Thanksgiving dinner furnished to inmates of County Home and visits made during the year.

Several surgical operations performed on children who were defective.

Compulsory vaccination in graded schools.

Placed more than 20 children in homes and schools.

Securing the teaching of domestic science in schools.

The Federation is fortunate in having Mrs. R. L. Justice, of Greens-

boro, at present as chairman of the social service department. We shall hope to hear of continued interest in

this department under her able leadership.

THE BOOK TABLE

Edited by MISS MARY B. PALMER, Librarian Carnegie Library
Charlotte

The Book Table has been inaugurated for the purpose of supplying a guide to the best of the new books on social subjects. It is hoped that this list will be useful to librarians as well as to social workers, and for that reason reviews will be given from the *American Library Association Booklist*, the *Wisconsin Library Bulletin*, *The Dial* and other reliable book-reviewing periodicals.

The editor of this column will be very glad to have suggestions and criticisms from the Conference members.

A LAYMAN'S HANDBOOK OF MEDICINE, by Richard C. Cabot. Houghton, Mifflin Company: Boston. 1916. \$2.00 net.

"This is fascinating reading, especially for those who already have some knowledge of diseases, methods of treatment and preventive measures, and are believers in the education of people in these important matters. The book is largely based on lectures given to social workers, and those conditions, diseases or treatments are emphasized with which these workers have most to do, or a knowledge of which would aid most in protection and prevention. But with these essentials is linked very entertainingly and helpfully considerable information about medicine and the attitude of the modern physician."—*Wisconsin Library Bulletin*.

Doctor Cabot is chief of the medical staff of Massachusetts General Hospital, and has had wide experience in social service. Anything he writes on medicine is authoritative, and those who have read his popular studies, "What Men Live By", will vouch for the charm of his style. Both of these books should be read by every social worker in North Carolina.

HOW TO LIVE. Edited by Irving Fisher and Eugene Lyman. Funk & Wagnalls Co.: New York. Fisk. Funk: New York. 1915. \$1.00 net.

"Rules for healthful living, based on modern science, authorized by and prepared in collaboration with the Hygiene Reference Board of the Life Extension Institute, Inc."—Subtitle. Scientific, but simply presented, having positive aims to preserve health, to improve the physical conditions of the individual, and to increase his vitality. Wm. H. Taft, in a foreword, "commends this volume to the earnest consideration of all who desire authoritative guidance in improving their own physical conditions or in making effective the knowledge now available for bringing health and happiness to our people."—*A. L. A. Booklist*.

"In several respects an unusual manual. The information on foods, diet, poisons, etc., is more scientific and definite than is usually found in

popular books on hygiene, and is selected for the average man and woman who needs to be persuaded of the value of observing proper hygienic rules."—*Wisconsin Library Bulletin*.

LIVES WORTH LIVING, by E. C. Peabody. University of Chicago. 1915. \$1.00 net.

"Thirteen studies for classes of young women, the subjects chosen from the women of the Bible and of later times (as Florence Nightingale) to show 'that the life that is worth living is the one lived for the betterment of some one else.' With each is correlated a study of woman's position today—in the home, her public influence, as immigrants, in industry."—*Wisconsin Library Bulletin*.

VOCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY, by Harry L. Hollingsworth. D. Appleton & Co.: New York. 1916. \$2.00 net.

"For several years Professor Hillingworth has been making experimental and comparative studies of the various methods now used in selecting a vocation: character-analysis, ways of selecting employees for different kinds of work, the use of psychological tests and other methods in such enterprises, the value of impressions based on the physical appearance of the individual, his photograph, his letters of application, the judgment of his associates, etc. This material is now presented in volume form. It is the first book that has attempted to give a complete, exact and authoritative presentation of the problems, methods and results of this intensely important and currently interesting field of the psychology of vocation. The book is of interest to the individual who wants to know himself better; to the parent or teacher interested in the guidance and direction of young people in their

choice of careers; to the professional vocational counsellor; to the student; to the teacher of psychology who is interested in its practical applications, and especially to the business man who may be interested in surrounding himself with more competent assistants and employees and in knowing how to select these scientifically."—*Social Service Review*. (March, 1917).

PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION, by E. P. Cubberley. Houghton, Mifflin Company: Boston. 1916. \$1.75 net.

"A constructive, serviceable work for school superintendents and school boards in smaller as well as larger cities, covering every phase of school administration. The proper form of organization is very well presented and illustrated with charts; the selection, training and supervision, pay and promotion departments of work. Questions and good references at the end of each chapter."—*Wisconsin Library Bulletin*.

SIMONS, SARAH EMMA, Comp. American Literature Through Illustrative Readings. New York: Scribner, 1915, 463p., \$1.12 net.

"A selection of poems and prose extracts to represent American literature from Captain John Smith to Percy MacKaye, designed to accompany a high-school course of study. Living writers have been given largest space, and few of any importance, except the poets and dramatists, are omitted. Under the chapter heading 'Tendencies' the magazine, short story and drama are discussed. A good supplemental book for libraries supplying high school needs, and also useful for study club work."—*Wisconsin*.

THE DEATH PENALTY

Tried and Found Wanting

The civilization of a community may well be measured by its methods of dealing with the "Criminal Class." The states that retain the death penalty as a punishment for crime are still undeveloped; their penal code is based upon a primitive desire for revenge and retaliation.

Twelve states of the United States have developed beyond the stage of "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." They have thrown off the shackles of custom; they realize that the function of punishment is to reform—not to eliminate.

States that cling to the old institution of capital punishment for certain crimes, particularly murder, have failed to examine the effect of this punishment in the light of modern knowledge. They retain this punishment because they believe that it has a function. The death penalty has no function. It is argued that it deters men from crime or prevents private individuals from seeking vengeance, but this contention is based upon belief and not upon facts.

The abolition of the death penalty has usually meant a rapid decline in the homicide rate. It is not necessary to support this contention by extensive tables of statistics, but it is rather interesting to note in the Census of the United States for the year 1910 that the states which had abolished the death penalty had the lowest homicide rate.

Those not in favor of the abolition of the death penalty are constantly citing the fact that Italy has had an increase in homicide since the abolition of the death penalty. Such a statement cannot be proven by facts. There has not been an execution in Italy since 1876, and the homicide rate has constantly decreased. Life in northern Italy is as safe as in any New England state.

One of the arguments constantly advanced in favor of the retention of the death penalty is that states which have abolished it have been forced to re-establish the death penalty. True, certain states have re-established the death penalty, but the cause of the re-establishment was not that the homicide rate had increased. The cause was political rather than social. The Republic of Switzerland abolished the death penalty by a Constitutional Amendment in 1874. This was an encroachment upon the sovereign rights of the cantons and was bitterly opposed by the local governments. As a result of this opposition, Article 65 of the Constitution of 1874 was repealed in 1879, but the advocates of the retention of the death penalty did not attempt to prove that there had been any increase in crime during the abolition, because such a contention could not be proven. Again, in 1893, there was a commission appointed to codify the laws of the Republic but this codification was not ratified, due

to the fact that five cantons refused to have the death penalty abolished. Nevertheless, at the present time, the death penalty is exercised in but seven of the twenty-two cantons of the Republic of Switzerland.

We are told that France was forced to re-establish the death penalty. The truth of the matter is that the re-establishment of the death penalty was caused by forces other than an increase in crime. In 1906 the Budgetary Committee of the House of Deputies struck out the salary of the public executioner, and, although the death penalty was not legally abolished, it was not exercised during the three-year period, 1909-1906. In 1909 the House of Deputies voted to enforce the law, and, despite the opposition led by President Fallières and Juarez, France again used death as a method of dealing with crime. The crime wave of 1909 was not affected by the death penalty, and, although the number of public executions increased, the homicide rate continued to increase by leaps and bounds, and France was swept by a crime wave that did not terminate until at the outbreak of the European war.

Two states of the United States have re-established the death penalty after a brief abolition. Iowa abolished the death penalty in 1872 and re-established it in 1878. During this six-year period of abolition the homicide rate declined from one homicide per 800,000 to one homicide for 1,200,000 population. In 1878 a commission was appointed to revise the penal code and at that revision the death penalty was re-established,

granting the jury the option of life imprisonment in cases of murder in the first degree. It may be seen from these figures that the re-establishment was without rhyme or reason.

In 1897 Colorado abolished the death penalty. Two years later three lynchings occurred in this State, and as a result of these lynchings the death penalty was re-established in the following year. During this three-year period of abolition the percentage of convictions had increased, and there had been no increase in the homicide rate. But the legislatures heeded the popular hysteria and re-established the death penalty.

Tennessee is having a similar experience today. In 1915 the death penalty was abolished for murder in the first degree. This bill was vetoed by the Governor, but, due to the fact that he held this measure beyond the legal time, it became a law despite his veto. A number of the prominent newspapers of Tennessee are opposed to the abolition of the death penalty, and during the year of abolition they have played up the atrocious murders. The recent vote of both Houses to establish the death penalty is not surprising in the light of these facts, but neither the legislature nor the general public have inquired into the results of the abolition and if there was an increase in crime as a result of the abolition. Such facts have not been produced and it is doubtful if they can be produced.

Not only religious or political forces may be responsible for the re-establishment of the death penalty—a hysterical reaction to an atrocious crime may serve as the basis for a

movement for the re-introduction of the scaffold. The State of Washington is passing through the interesting phase of group psychology. There is a movement in this State for the re-establishment of the death penalty after a period of abolition covering about four years. The Senate endeavored to re-establish the death penalty in 1915, but the measure received scant attention in the lower House. But early in the present year, following the atrocious murder of the Industrial Insurance Commissioner at the hands of a weak-minded workman who had been denied a pension, the Senate voted to re-establish the death penalty. No conclusive proof was offered that the abolition had resulted in an increase in crime. A crime had been committed—a life had been taken—and the bewildered legislator decided that the State should again be placed in a position to demand a life in expiation. Whether the lower House will yield to this senseless fear that the well-being of the State is jeopardized when the power to inflict the death penalty is removed remains to be seen; but if this measure does pass and become a law with the approval of the Governor, it will serve as a shining example of the thoughtless legislation based upon fear and not upon facts.

The experience of Colorado has been cited a number of times to prove that the retention of the death penalty is necessary in order to prevent individuals from seeking vengeance, but the death penalty does not prevent lynchings. In fact, lynchings often occur with the greatest frequency in those states where the law

is exercised with the greatest severity.

During the period 1910-1915 ten Southern states had 38 per cent. of the legal executions and 70 per cent. of the lynchings take place within their borders. Doctor Cutler in his admirable work on Lynch Law has pointed out the fact that the number of legal executions and the amount of lynchings in the United States has constantly decreased since 1880. Lynchings occur because of a racial antipathy; not because of the lack of severity in the law. Lynchings occur not as a measure of protection for women, as generally believed, but because the white is not satisfied to let the law take its course when the negro is the offender. Sixty per cent. of the lynchings were for murder; 20 per cent. for rape or alleged rape during the period of 1910-1915.

It is true that some of the arguments advanced against the retention of the death penalty have been based upon more or less sentimental grounds, but modern penology has drawn an indictment against the death penalty that is based upon facts and not upon sentiment. Investigations have proven beyond the shadow of a doubt that the retention of the death penalty renders it exceedingly difficult to secure a verdict, and, as a result of that the number of convictions, is extremely low in states retaining the death penalty. In a special report of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives of the United States submitted in 1893, it was found that the percentage of convictions to indictments in Wisconsin, a non-capi-

tal punishment State, was 53 per cent., while in Massachusetts, a State retaining death as the only punishment for murder in the first degree, the percentage was zero.

The fact that the wheels of justice are slowed up by the jurors' antipathy to the death penalty is reflected in the length of the time it takes to secure a jury in an important murder trial. In the recent Teiper case in Buffalo nearly 200 talismen were called before a jury of twelve could be secured and nearly three weeks of valuable time were lost before the State had an opportunity to present its evidence. If for no other reason the death penalty should be abolished in order to speed up the courts of justice.

Many states have endeavored to overcome this difficulty by adopting the Jury Option System. This system grants a jury the option of death or life imprisonment. It has been argued that if the jury realizes that it has this opportunity there will no longer be the hesitancy on their part in bringing in a verdict of murder in the first degree. The jury option system has proven a failure, for it has increased the difficulty of the juror. It has forced upon him the duty of determining, not only the degree of guilt, but also the degree of punishment. As a result in the same year that Wisconsin had an unusually high average of 53 per cent. of convictions to indictments, California, a State granting the jury the option of death or life imprisonment, had but 21 per cent.

Twenty-four states of the United States have adopted this blundering

method of compromise. Some of the states place discretionary power, not only in the hands of the jury, but also in the hands of the judge. In Utah a jury can recommend life-imprisonment, but it is discretionary with the judge if this plea for mercy be heeded. However, if the judge fails to instruct the jury as to its right to enter this plea for mercy, the case is thrown out of court and retried, due to the fact that the defendant has been denied a natural right.

A senseless increase in the technicality of the law in order to retain an ineffectual punishment for crime.

The human mind is not infallible. A number of examples of the miscarriage of justice in this and foreign countries would prove conclusively that it is not right to put such a burden on the shoulders of any judge or jury. The difficulty to ascertain the true facts in any case should be sufficient proof that this burden should be removed from our courts. The famous case of Andrew Toth, who served twenty years in the Western State Penitentiary of Pennsylvania for a crime which he did not commit, is sufficient proof that no judge or jury can be infallible. The recent Stielow case in the State of New York is another interesting case in the criminal annals of the country. Condemned to death, granted at least five stays of sentence, the Governor finally commuted his sentence to life imprisonment because another man in open court had confessed that he had committed the act. Although this confession was after repudiated, sufficient doubt had been raised in the mind of the Executive of the State

to give him ground for such commutation. Judging from these few facts, society should decide that it is not just to throw such a burden upon the officers whose duty it is to enforce the statute law.

There is a national movement for the abolition of the death penalty as a method of dealing with crime. The Committee on Capital Punishment of the National Committee on Prisons, with headquarters at Columbia University, New York, is carrying the fight into a number of states. Through their efforts, the question of capital punishment was brought before the Governors' Conference at Washington, D. C., and a number of the Governors stated that they would call the matter to the attention of the legislature in their annual messages.

Through the efforts of this committee, bills have been introduced in a number of states and the indications are that a number of states will abolish the death penalty.

The officers of the Committee on Capital Punishment are: George Foster Peabody, Chairman; Jacob H. Schiff, Right Reverend Wilson R. Stearly, Jane Addams, Vice-Chairmen.

The Executive Commission consists of Adolph Lewisohn, Charles H. Ingersoll, Leo. L. Redding, Huntington W. Merchant, E. Stagg Whitin.

Those interested in such a movement can communicate with the Secretary, H. L. Baldensperger, Broadway & 116th Street, New York.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ENACTMENTS OF THE 1917 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

W. L. RANKIN, Sec'y State Board of Health

Speaking in general terms, I may say that the last General Assembly was very favorably disposed toward providing for the public health. I think there were three principal factors responsible for this attitude on the part of the General Assembly: The first factor was an uninterrupted growth during recent years in North Carolina, and in the country generally, of a stronger public sentiment favorable to human conservation. The second factor was the Governor of North Carolina, who, without any re-

flection whatever on former chief executives, may be safely said to be the most progressive and constructive public health Governor the State has had. In fact, Governor Bickett's position on public health has attracted national notice although his career as Governor is only beginning. The third factor was the possibility that some of the members of the General Assembly, on account of their having opposed the right of the people to know what they take in the form of drugs and the effects thereof,

had some little misgivings of the conscience and wanted to 'even up' by taking a liberal position on all other public health bills.

The bill prohibiting the sale of secret remedies: The State Board of Health, and men prominent in State affairs, thought that the time had come when the people of the State had the right to know the composition and effect of all drugs and preparations advertised, bought and consumed for alleged remedial effect. A bill, requiring the composition of alleged remedies to be plainly and legibly printed on the package, and placing a sufficient graduated tax upon the sale of such remedies as to furnish the people the necessary information in regard to the effect of the ingredients, was carefully prepared after consultation with the leading national experts on the regulation of the sale of drugs. The bill was introduced in the Senate by Senator A. M. Scales, of Guilford, and an identical bill was introduced in the House by Hon. Henry A. Page, of Moore. Tremendous opposition to the bill soon developed. The opposition came from the American Wholesale Druggists' Association, the organization of secret-remedy manufacturers of this country, but it was expressed through the retail druggists of North Carolina. The opponents of the bill took the ground (1) that the bill would hurt the retail druggists of the State, and (2) that it was class legislation in behalf of the medical profession. The bill received an unfavorable report from both the House and Senate Public Health Committees to which it had been referred. While

this bill was pending and under fire, the opponents of the measure prepared and introduced a decoy bill, purporting to give the same relief sought in the Board of Health measure. The decoy bill was passed and is now a law. This law is directed at the advertising of fraudulent remedies. This law is harmless and will do some little good, but it will not accomplish one-twentieth of what its proponents claimed for it, and what the majority of the members of the General Assembly who voted for the bill thought it would accomplish. The accuracy of this statement will be borne out (1) by the number of indictments against fraudulent advertising that will be brought in the next two years by those charged with the execution of this act, and (2) by a comparison of the advertising columns of the leading papers of the State now and two years hence.

The quarantine law: Until the enactment of this law, the control of contagious and epidemic diseases in North Carolina has been a purely local responsibility. It has been left entirely to the counties and towns of the State to say whether or not they would control contagion and epidemics or not control this class of diseases at all. If a town or a county was careless, indifferent as to its responsibilities in this vital matter, it could, if it desired, do nothing, and allow contagion originating within its borders to spread beyond and into other towns and counties, some of which, although careful and appreciative of their responsibilities for the protection of their citizens, were helpless to protect themselves against

infection from the careless county or town. The State has been powerless to protect the alert, intelligent, and careful county from contagion contracted from the apathetic, ignorant and careless county. Another equally deplorable and inexcusable situation, developing out of the principle of treating contagion as a purely local problem, was that the State could not answer, much to our embarrassment, inquiries from her own citizens, other state governments, and the United States government as to either the extent or the location of prevailing diseases within her borders; moreover, the State authorities could not warn counties towards which contagion was making its way and advise the adoption of valuable anticipatory preventive measures. Our weak position in epidemiological work has hurt the standing of the State among the sanitary authorities of the country. Thanks to the provisions of our new law, this unenviable position will no longer obtain.

The law provides: First, the reporting to the county quarantine officer by physicians in attendance, or where there is no physician in attendance, by householders, of known or suspected cases of contagious and infectious diseases. Second, the prescribing of minimum rules and regulations by the State Board of Health for the conduct of those concerned with the management of contagious and infectious diseases. Note the words *minimum* rules and regulations. If any town or county in the State wishes to adopt more stringent rules than those prescribed by the State Board of Health, such a town

or county, under the law, can do so. Adequate penalties for the enforcement of the rules and regulations prescribed by the Board are provided in the law. Third, a county quarantine officer in each county of the State, officially sworn to enforce the law and the rules and regulations which the Board prescribes, moreover, the quarantine officer may be removed from office for non-performance of duty. In all counties having whole-time county health officers, the health officer, under the law, is quarantine officer. In those counties having county physicians, the county physician is quarantine officer. Fourth, the following monthly compensation from county physicians acting as county quarantine officer:

Counties with a population less than 10,000, \$15.00 per month.

Counties with a population of from 10,000 to 15,000, \$17.50 per month.

Counties with a population of from 15,000 to 25,000, \$25.00 per month.

Counties with a population of from 25,000 to 40,000, \$35.00 per month.

Counties with a population of from 40,000 to 50,000, \$45.00 per month.

Counties with a population over 50,000, \$50.00 per month.

Fifth, that the county quarantine officer report, within twenty-four hours, all cases of contagious or infectious diseases reported to him by local physicians or householders to the State Epidemiologist, thereby providing adequate State records of the occurrence of epidemic diseases in the State, and through such records making possible State assistance to those counties in need of such assistance.

The medical inspection of schools law: This law was one of the specific inaugural recommendations of Governor Bickett. The Governor wrote the law himself. It is an admirable law. It places North Carolina far in advance of the average state and practically abreast of the best two or three states in the care of the health of school children. The entire credit for this piece of legislation belongs to the Governor.

The law provides: First, a physical examination of every public school child in the State every three years. The three-year program makes it necessary for the State to be divided into three parts, and one part inspected each year. Second, a county medical inspector of schools, chosen, in those counties without whole-time health officers, by the county board of education from the regular registered physicians of the county. In those counties that have a health officer, the health officer is *ex officio* medical inspector of schools. The medical inspectors of schools are to be called together and their work is to be explained to them and they are to be supplied with a brief, comprehensive manual on the subjects and methods of medical inspection of schools. Third, a meeting of all the school teachers of the county early in September, when their duties as prescribed in the law will be explained to the teachers by the county medical inspector and the county superintendent of public instruction. Fourth, an examination by the teacher of every child in her grade or school in accordance with the directions of the county medical inspector

and according to a teachers' manual which will be given the teacher. The teacher is to record the result of her examination of each child on blank forms which will be given to her by the county inspector. These cards, when filled out, are to be transmitted by the teacher to the county medical inspector of schools. Fifth, through the physical records secured and turned in by the teacher the county medical inspector of schools is provided with an economic means for selecting, through the card records, the more seriously impaired school children of his county and of summoning the parent or guardian of such children to bring the children to his office on some Saturday at a specified time between the hours of 8:30 a. m. and 5:30 p. m. It is contemplated that the county medical inspector of schools will require about 10 or 12 per cent. of the total school population of his county to be brought before him so that he can confirm and enlarge the findings of the teacher, and point out the defects to the parents or guardians concerned and impress such parents or guardians with the importance of treatment. Sixth, \$15.00 per day, or 60 cents per child examined is to be paid by the county to the inspector for his work. Seventh, that the county medical inspector shall call a meeting of the physicians and dentists of his county to consider ways and means for having the children found to be seriously impaired treated. The law contemplates a special schedule of fees on the part of the doctors and dentists for this work, and also a small appropria-

tion from the county and from the State, the State fund being already provided, as part payment of the cost of treating the seriously impaired school children.

The rural sanitation act: The General Assembly conditionally appropriated the sum of \$15,000 annually for the development of rural sanitation, the condition being that this fund should not be expended except in the proportion of \$1 to at least \$3 from other sources. Arrangements with the International Health Board are practically completed which will almost certainly result in a supplementary appropriation of \$15,000 annually from that Board, making a total available annual appropriation of \$30,000 for the organization of county health work in a limited number of counties. At present it is anticipated that from two to three years will be needed in the organization of a county health department. It will probably be possible to handle from six to ten counties the first year, from two to five additional counties the second year, and four or five additional counties the third year. It is hoped and believed that the participating agencies,—The International Health Board, and the State by renewals and extensions of this arrangement,—will be able to reach the counties of the State as rapidly, or about as rapidly, as the counties are ready to organize county departments of health.

The law for the prevention of blindness: This law provides the means for supplying all the physicians and midwives of the State with a prophylactic solution for the pre-

vention of *ophthalmia neonatorum*. It requires, under very rigid penalty, the use of such a prophylactic solution in the eyes of all new-born children. The law was very carefully drawn by a committee composed of Dr. R. H. Lewis, Mr. John E. Ray, Superintendent of the State School for the Blind, Mr. Gordon L. Berry, representing the National Association for the Prevention of Blindness, and the Secretary of the State Board of Health. The law is one of the best laws of its kind in operation, and a minimum estimate of its effects will be the prevention of from 20 to 40 cases of absolute blindness each year.

Hotel inspection law: The General Assembly passed a law requiring the inspection, grading, and publication from time to time of the grades of all hotels in the State, the bill making compulsory what, during the last year, has been a system of hotel inspection and grading optional with the hotels. The law is an admirable law of its kind, embracing all the essential features of hotel inspection work as practiced in the more progressive states and cities of the Union.

The law requiring the inspection and sanitary and hygienic care of prisons and prisoners was one of the most important pieces of legislation enacted by the last General Assembly and probably the most-needed legislation enacted. This law not only requires the inspection of all penal institutions of the State and counties by the State Board of Health, but makes the State Board of Health responsible for the sanitary and hygien-

ic management of prisoners. In other words, public criticism of any county jail or chain gang in North Carolina will have to be answered by the State Board of Health, because the Board is required to keep in touch with the sanitary and hygienic conditions of such institutions and is given the power to require that such institutions shall be kept sanitary. While the State Board of Health did not propose this law, the Board of Health does recognize it as one of the most important pieces of sanitary legislation enacted by the last General Assembly.

In this brief review of recent pub-

lic health legislation in North Carolina, I have only mentioned the more important pieces of legislation. I have not gone into details, and, on account of the limited time at my disposal and other pending business, I have omitted to mention much public health legislation of comparatively minor importance, but in reality of great importance. In conclusion, I may assert safely that the General Assembly of 1917 was the most constructive body of law makers in the protection of human health and life that the State has ever had.

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